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Options

magazine

Marin's Progressive Voice

Fall, 1992

Election Special page 21

Population Control page 8

Protecting Alternative Medicine page 13

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I WANT YOU to VOTE

Options magazine

Picking out art for this edition, I came across a Sheila Neill graphic that we used four years ago in THE FAX -- a cartoon of George Bush, his nose growing a la Pinnoccio and his pants burning. It was one of the best graphics we used during the FAX days and, appropriately, you will find it running through this edition.

Using a graphic from THE FAX (it's not the first time we've done it, but never so prominently) is indeed appropriate, because this issue marks the last for Wendi Kallins as a member of the coordinating team that puts *Options* together every quarter. After seven years as publisher, managing editor and creative force behind the two publications, Wendi is leaving the publishing end of the business to pursue her writing career and her activism in land-use planning.

Options will continue, having to settle for her by-line appearing from time to time. Sheila, Mitra and I will publish *Options* again this January -- in a slightly different form.

Rather than a quarterly magazine, *Options* will become a monthly newsletter. We don't know what we want it to look like yet, but we know that Marin's progressive community needs a vehicle through which it can network and communicate on a regular basis. It will be our undertaking to fill that need.

As always, we welcome anyone's input and assistance in this effort. Writers, artists, sales people, proofreaders, sales people and copy editors are all welcome.

We also hope to build a closer relationship with Marin's progressive organizations, and to become a tool they can rely on to reach their constituents.

So, enjoy this issue. We hope you find it informational and helpful. And the next time you see Wendi, give her a hug and tell her you've appreciated her efforts over the last seven years.

I sure have.

Lew Tremaine

Options magazine

Options Inmates:

Mitra, Lew Tremaine, Sheila Neill,
Jill Kramer, Lisa Alpine, Wendy Tanowitz

Outgoing inmate: Wendi Kallins
(Free at last)

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Election in the Balance

A Review of Al Gore's Proposals

by Wendi Kallins

If I had my way, *Earth in the Balance* by Senator Al Gore would be required reading by the entire electorate before they could cast their votes in this election. This comprehensive and exhaustive study of the state of the environment takes a personal, political and an academic perspective on the state of the planet and concludes that we have no greater task at hand but to turn around the inevitable collision with our extinction before it is too late.

What makes this work so extraordinary is that this man, who is a product of the status quo, dares to question that status quo. Its allure is that Gore is in a position to confront it head on, because he is an insider.

"The edifice of civilization has become astonishingly complex, but as it grows ever more elaborate, we feel increasingly distant from our roots in the earth," he writes. "In one sense, civilization itself has been on a journey from its foundation in the world of nature to an ever more contrived, controlled, and manufactured world of our own imitative and sometimes arrogant design. And in my view, the price has been high. At some point during this journey we lost our feeling of connectedness to the rest of nature. We now dare to wonder: Are we so unique and powerful as to be essentially separate from the earth?"

These are not the words of a California new-ager but of a U.S. Senator and Vice Presidential candidate. Gore talks about the paradigm shift: how we have been caught up in the Newtonian mechanized world that separates and compartmentalizes the world into distinct parts. We must now recognize that these parts are interrelated and organized into a comprehensive system that feeds on itself to achieve equilibrium. As our view of the world changes, so will our approach to problem solving.

Gore spends the first section of his book dissecting the various components of the environmental crisis -- from climate changes, toxic contaminants, soil loss, water table encroachment, and the loss of primary seeds to ensure future food supplies. As the congressional leader in environmental awareness, Gore has been gathering this material for the last decade through academic research and first-hand experience. Even someone well-versed in the looming environmental catastrophe will find new material here to be deciphered.

Part Two is a deep analysis of our society, which touches on all aspects of the American psyche, from our dysfunctional families to our vacuum of spiritual awareness. As a Southern Baptist, he uses his own faith as a guiding post towards reconnection to the earth. But he also gives references to the Gaia theory and Goddess cultures as well. He even stretches his neck out and suggests that Capitalism must reconnect itself to the real bottom line, those areas that can't be coded with dollars and cents but none the less affect the outcome of every decision -- environmental costs.

Gore suggests that the salvation of the Earth should become our central organizing principal, much as the ouster of Communism had dominated the last 40 years. He outlines what he calls a five point Global Marshall Plan which would set a new direction for the United States and its international role.

"No goal is more crucial to healing the global environment than stabilizing human population," says Gore and this is point one of his plan. He makes the big connections between family planning, education and infant mortality that are all required to address this problem adequately.

His next point is the development and sharing of appropriate technologies, a new economic base centered on the research and development of the kind of industries that protect and create harmonious living with the earth. The other industrial nations have already devoted investments towards new solar energy products, waste management and recycling, mass transit, while the U.S. drags its heals.

He then suggests changing the economic rules so

that our Gross National Product includes the depletion of natural resources. If we were to include pollution and other environmental consequences of our actions on the balance sheet, he argues, we would find that we have been operating at a net loss for years.

He calls for a new generation of treaties and agreements aimed at protecting the environment. These are the kinds of agreements that could have come out of the Earth Summit, had Al Gore been there representing the President instead of simply leading the congressional delegation. Finally, he suggests a fundamental change in how we gather information about what is happening to the environment and to organize a worldwide education program. "We should actively search for ways to promote a new way of thinking about the current relationship between the human civilization and the earth." We must make our decisions based on the effect these will have on the seventh generation, says Gore.

Gore's thinking goes beyond environmental calamity and addresses how we can use this crisis as a basis for forging a new global relationship and a new economic structure to replace the crumbling economy that seems to be at the forefront of everyone's minds this election. This is more than a plan or a series of proposals. This is a vision. It is the same vision that many of us have been striving for since we all were infected back in the sixties. Never, in my wildest dreams, did I think that someone who possessed such spirit would ever make it this close to the White House.

This November, for the first time, I will be able to punch that card knowing that I am not voting against the greater of two evils. I am voting for someone who shares my dream.

Can we Trust the Supervisors?

by Mitra

In November, we will see two initiatives on the ballot, which although on the surface cover different areas -- the Jail and the Buck Center/A60 zoning -- are really addressing a fundamentally deeper issue.

The jail initiative has made it to the ballot because four current members of the Board of Supervisors (Hal Brown, Al Aramburu, Gary Giacomini and Bob Roumiguiere) think that they know better than Marin's voters. In 1987 and 1988, Marin's voters turned down plans for a new jail, in the last case by 75%. Despite this vote, the Supervisors decided to end-run the electorate by selling bonds without a vote. People have plenty of reasons to oppose the jail. It is an appalling waste of money to be building "correctional" facilities when all we are really doing is warehousing and training criminals. The real "correction" would come by spending the money on treating the mentally ill, drug and alcohol abusers, on housing the homeless, and on stopping the phony "War on Some Drugs"

The "Agricultural Preservation Initiative" made it to the ballot for similar reasons. We are lumbered with a ballot initiative which few people like, because the supervisors continue to support the plans for a Buck Center for Aging despite public opposition. People oppose the Buck Center for a variety of reasons: waste of money, breaking A-60 zoning, animal experimentation and bloated salaries, but the real reason that many people signed the initiative was because it promised to take power away from the good-old-boys who run the county, while ignoring public input.

For any progressive initiative to succeed it will probably have to face huge odds, in particular it has to face an electorate who tend to vote NO on anything confusing. Moneyed interests (real-estate, big business, etc.) are prepared to outspend an initiative 10 to 1 in order to confuse the issue enough to ensure a "Vote No if confused" response from the voters. This was especially evident in the Nuclear Free Zone initiatives, the first initiative, passed in ('86) by 57%. But the board of Supervisors decided to ignore the will of the voters

and found loopholes in the law that allowed them to buy from bomb-makers via third parties. The second initiative (in '90) lost by a narrow margin after being outspent 100 to 1 by companies that were petrified of an informed marketplace deciding against buying from dealers-in-death.

Of course the supervisors are not the only elected or appointed body that is choosy about when to follow the will of the electorate. In November we are going to be faced with Measure V, a new water measure which while improving some of the efficiency and conservation areas still includes money for the pipeline to the Russian River which the voters rejected last November.

The real question we should be asking candidates for supervisor or waterboard or any other body is not how they will vote on particular issues, but whether they will promise to uphold the will of Marin's voters even when they personally disagree with it, or whether they intend to search for loopholes to allow them to ignore us.

Townscape Marin
Finding the Middle Ground

by Wendi Kallins

Imagine a future Marin with all of its open spaces remaining free of development, just as we see it today. Imagine taking your bicycle and riding along the bayfront, enjoying the wetlands and having clear views all around. That's the easy part. Everyone smiles when they bring up that picture. Now imagine that there are more homes available, more jobs that pay good wages, and more opportunity for community activities. Wouldn't it be nice to live somewhere where you could walk to work or where public transit was easily available? That's where the picture gets fuzzy. How can we have both? And at what cost? To ever achieve such a union requires the dirtiest word in Marin vocabulary -- density.

Last May, I joined a group of Bay Area architects and planners to spend a weekend tackling the county's eastern corridor. From a regional perspective we looked at all the various needs as expressed in position papers submitted by citizens' groups such as Marin Conservation League, Ecumenical Association for Housing, and the business interests represented by the Marin Council. We wanted to find a way in which the bayfront lands could be protected and where real economic and housing needs could be met without the two canceling each other out.

What we proposed was bold, radical, and politically threatening. We suggested that no new development occur on any raw lands and instead all the density potential be transferred into existing built areas along the corridor. We especially pointed out that development should not be a series of blocks of uses but should be an organic mix that makes for positive human environments. We also suggested densities that made economic sense.

That's when the ears closed and the warning shots came our way. "Thou shalt not have density in Marin" has been the credo for so long we've come to accept it as the gospel. And no wonder. Whatever density has occurred has always been such a travesty to human needs that it is no wonder we reject it at all costs. Yet we have ignored the obvious right under our noses. Our old towns are all of a higher density and they rank as some of the most desirable places to live: Mill Valley, the Caledonia area of Sausalito, San Anselmo, Fairfax, the old neighborhoods of San Rafael -- all have created a solid sense of community for its residents.

The problem with modern day development notions is it only takes into account the profit margin of the investors. Development comes in blocks, like various cuts of meat, and nobody thinks about the future residents and how they will be able to coalesce into a cohesive community. So we create apartment block ghettos and single family home ghettos with miles of streets keeping people away from each other. We have

industrial parks and shopping centers, surrounded by a sea of parking lots. We build for our cars, not for ourselves.

Townscape Marin does not just suggest that we take unwanted development and plop it down in a different location, equally unwanted. It suggests that we solve our socio-economic needs by creating a more organic structure that creates benefits for the surrounding community and is a logical extension of its existing character. To make that work requires a density compatible with the rest of Marin. That frightens people.

Two of the three areas most suitable for receiving such development are located in Novato -- downtown Novato and Hamilton. While Novato may entertain ideas which could enhance its own downtown, the political winds have driven any creative solution for Hamilton out the window. Thou shalt not discuss Hamilton has become the Eleventh Commandment.

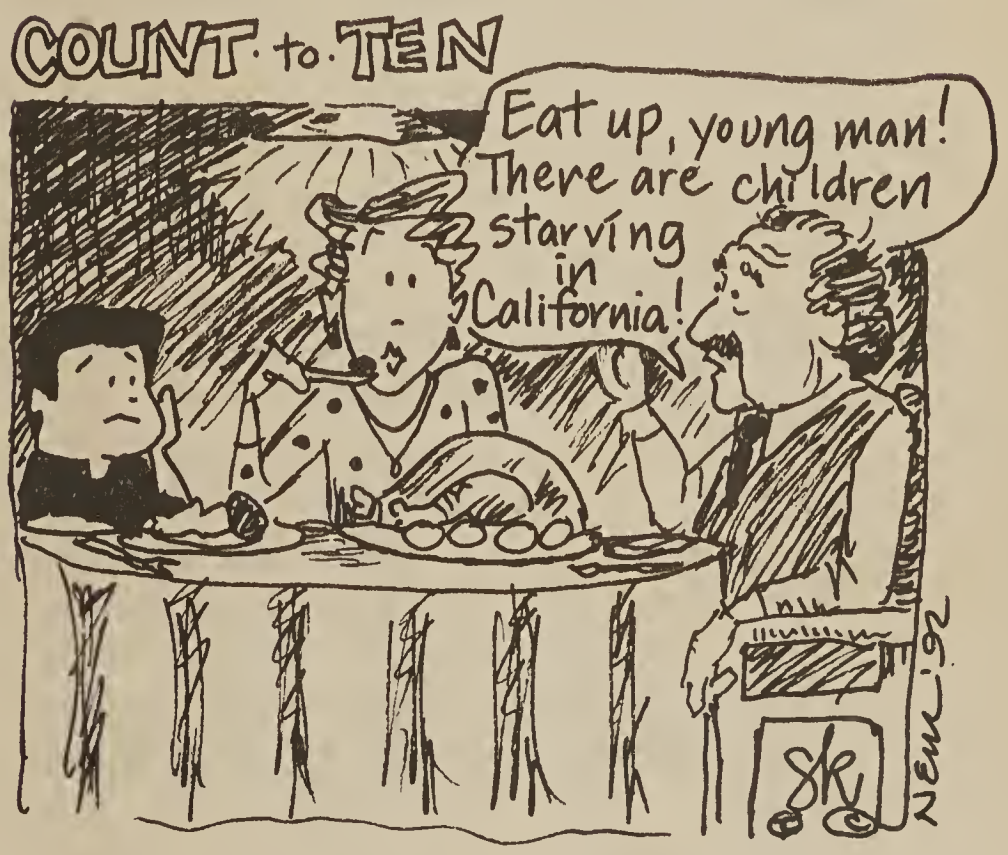
I am not one to wish to force any ideas on a community against its will. Yet often, in operating out of fear and suspicion, people can often ignore the larger picture. Would the people of Novato prefer to see the bayfront lands be threatened by further encroachment of development? Are they really interested in seeing more expensive homes sprawled on their outskirts, further destroying its rural flavor? Is this alternative more palatable than entertaining a higher density solution for Hamilton?

The primary impact on most Novatoans from any development at Hamilton is traffic. If the surrounding lands are developed -- as they will be considering economic and social pressures -- the traffic impacts will be the same. It could possibly be worse because high density mixed use at least allows more opportunity to fulfill everyday needs without the use of the automobile and is much better suited for public transit, whether that be buses or trains. Statistics show that low-and moderate-income housing actually generates less traffic than traditional suburban single-family homes.

It seems that as everyone discusses development they are focusing in on the effects such development will have on existing residents and never question what kind of communities we are creating for the future residents. Creating a townscape at Hamilton will provide a much more liveable environment than the current proposal of auto-oriented commercial residential mix which has no center and paves over the historical character of the existing architecture.

As I gaze over our global political landscape I see the same game being perpetuated continuously. Everyone get in their own camp and come out swinging. From the violent struggles in Bosnia and South Africa to the political stalemate that was the California budget, the rules of the game are to hold onto your position until you have exhausted and/or annihilated your opponents. Here in Marin it is no different. Cooperation and open dialogue seems to allude us.

It would be unreasonable to expect the people who are most affected to embrace our ideas with open arms. We only ask that they listen to what we have to say with an open mind. Those of us who have worked on this project have absolutely no vested interest in the outcome. We are motivated by vision, not by financial gain. We seek to strike a balance for the earth, to allow people to live in harmony with their environment. I don't want others to suffer so that I can protect my little piece of turf in San Geronimo, but so that others can enjoy what I have, a beautiful environment and a healthy and supportive community.



No Simple Answers

Computer modeling reveals that limiting births alone will not solve the global crisis — we must change our behavior in many ways

by Robert Gilman

On its surface, the "population explosion" looks like a conceptually simple problem with an equally simple solution: the world is getting crowded and all these people are putting too much stress on the environment. The obvious solution: have fewer children. Of course, there are mammoth political, social and cultural roadblocks in the way, but if we could just cut the birth rate we'd have the root cause of our environmental problems licked.

So it seems. Yet what we've found in developing this issue is that this simple picture is at best only a half truth. Human family planning is part of an intricate, and fascinating, web of relationships that touch on almost every aspect of society — with many surprising consequences — and population growth is more often a symptom than a cause of our fundamental problems. This article explores that surprising web from two perspectives — one global and one very personal.

This model is based on the best current understanding of the global system as a whole, and it provides the clearest encapsulation of the challenges of the 21st century that I have seen. It is, of course, only a model, and because it treats the world as a unit, it necessarily involves many simplifications. Nevertheless, it is very good at illustrating the basic patterns that result from various fundamental cultural choices. We can learn a lot about "human family planning" with its help.

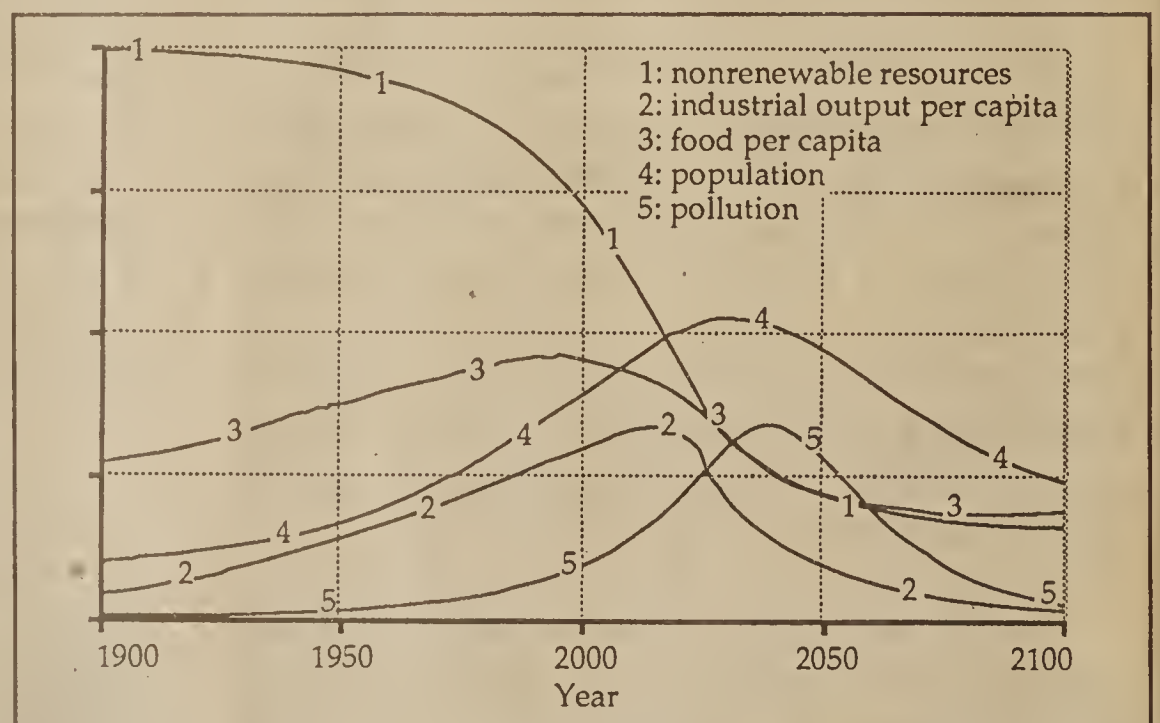


Figure 1: Overshoot and collapse from business-as-usual based the computer model used for Beyond The Limits.

Possible Futures

The best tool I've found for understanding the global dynamics of population growth, and its related environmental and economic impacts, is the computer model that served as the basis for *The Limits To Growth* twenty years ago, and that has now been updated for *Beyond The Limits: Confronting Global Collapse, Envisioning a Sustainable Future*, by Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, and Jorgen Randers (Chelsea Green Publishing Co., PO Box 130, Post Mills, VT05058).

Figure 1 illustrates how world population, food per person, industrial output per person, remaining nonrenewable resources, and pollution have changed since 1900. It also shows how these will likely change through 2100 if we keep on with business-as-usual. The pattern of rise and fall in these curves represents a cycle that system theorists describe as "overshoot and collapse."

In this particular case, the collapse is caused largely by an industrial system that is crucially dependent on nonrenewable resources. As these resources become

harder to extract from the earth, requiring ever increasing amounts of capital and energy just to get them into usable form, the economy becomes trapped. It can't provide what it used to in the way of investment in agriculture, consumer goods and services, and it no longer has the flexibility to restructure itself to make better use of renewable resources. The economy thus spirals down, pulling down agriculture and health care with it, yet still gobbling up lots of nonrenewable resources along the way. Death rates rise dramatically through hunger and disease, desperate humans ravage what is left of the world's ecosystems, and the foreseeable future is uniformly bleak.

Is the model accurate? It mimics the behavior of the world from 1900 to now remarkably well. Its description of the future, however, is based on assuming that people will keep behaving as they have during the 20th century, and that our current knowledge of important data (such as the amount of nonrenewable resources) is correct.

What if the data are wrong? Suppose, for example, that there are actually more nonrenewable resources than the model assumes. The beauty of a computer model is that it is easy to test such "what if" questions. If we double the amount of nonrenewable resources that the model assumes, the pattern of overshoot and collapse remains the same. The collapse gets delayed by about two decades, and in this case is driven by declining soil fertility and increased pollution, as well as the eventual exhaustion of nonrenewable resources.

The result of this, and many similar tests, is that reasonable variations in the data underlying the model do shift when the collapse occurs, but they do not change the basic pattern of overshoot and collapse. I should also point out that the model is not really designed for accuracy once the collapse begins, since it does not include provisions for war, social violence, or other likely breakdowns in the social system. In this sense it is probably overly optimistic and gentle about the world's likely behavior after the onset of a collapse.

What can we do to avoid such a fate? We have to change our behavior. Figure 2 provides one example of how this could be done. In this figure, everything is the same as in Figure 1 until 1995. In that year the world (within the model) changes its behavior in the following ways:

Technology

* We begin moving away from our dependence on nonrenewable resources so that this dependence (per unit of industrial output) gets cut in half in 20 years through greater efficiency and a greater use of renewable resources, and then keeps declining into the future.

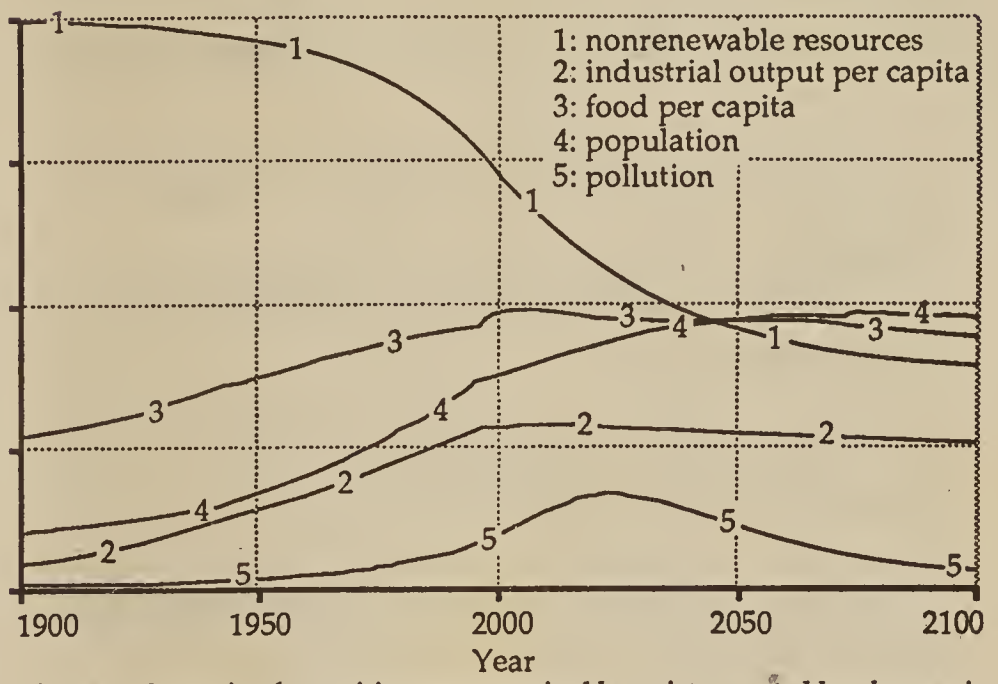


Figure 2: Scenario of transition to a sustainable society created by changes in technology, consumption patterns, and population growth together.

* We improve agricultural technologies and particularly soil conservation so that agriculture is less damaging to the land.

* We reduce pollution so that the pollution production rate per unit of industrial output gets cut in half in 20 years, and keeps declining.

Consumption

* We limit the world's average industrial output per capita to a maximum of about 80% of current Western European standards. It is important to note that this limit is only on output, not consumer use. If, for example, we make products that last twice as long, the world could have an average material standard of living about 160% of Western European standards.

Population growth is more often a symptom than a cause of our fundamental problems.

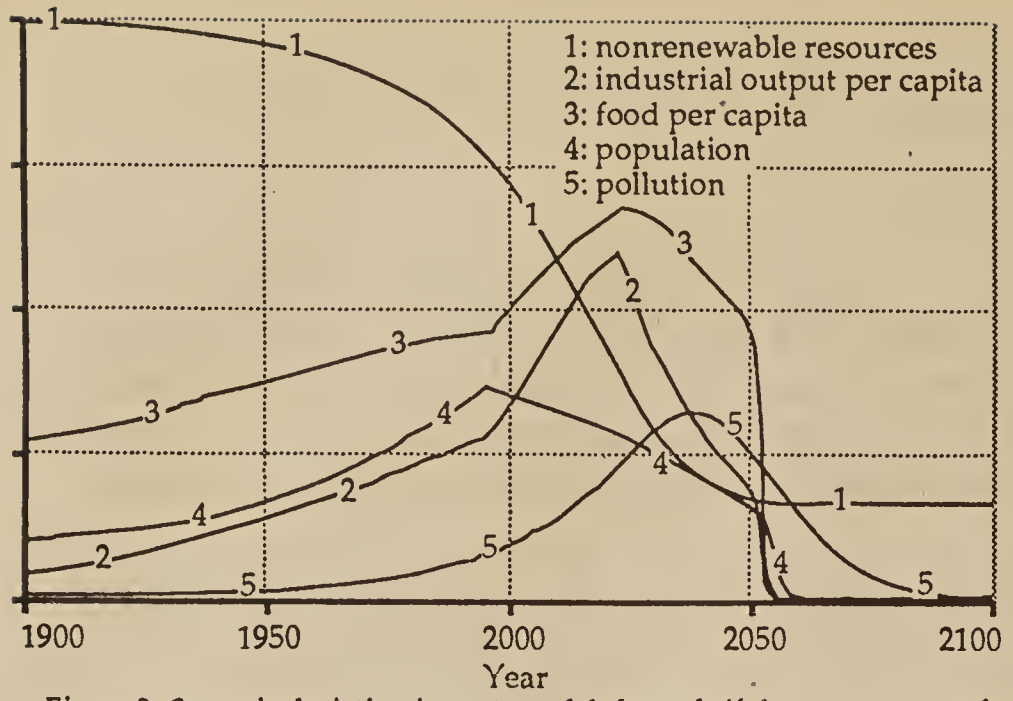


Figure 3: Scenario depicting impact on global trends if the extreme step of stopping all births were implemented beginning in 1995.

Population

* We make effective birth control methods available to everyone.

* The world's average "desired number of children per family" becomes two.

* We increase the proportion of industrial output that is invested into human services by about 50%.

All of these changes, even though they would involve significant cultural and economic shifts, are well within our human capabilities.

If we dont' move vigorously on changing to more efficient technologies and limiting our material consumption, all our efforts on population control will be too little, too late.

Given the stakes involved, whatever difficulties these changes might involve would be a small price to pay. The reward for doing them is clear. Population, food per capita, and industrial output per capita all stabilize at reasonable levels, and the human impact on the environment declines considerably.

Could we achieve a similar result by focusing on population growth alone? To test this, I put an extreme assumption into the model: no births after 1995. Otherwise, all the assumptions were the same as for Figure 1. Figure 3 gives the results: eventually (around 2060) food per capita and industrial output per capita collapse completely because there are only elders left, and no more labor force — about what you would expect from a world with no births! What I find much more interesting, however, is that the collapse in food per capita and industrial output per capita begin much earlier (around 2020), and for the same reasons that drive the collapse in Figure 1.

In other words, the people who are already alive today are enough to drive the world to economic and social collapse if we keep on with business-as-usual. Even this extreme example of population reduction through birth control is just too slow. A less extreme case, applying China's one child policy to the world starting in 1995, produces results that are even closer to Figure 1; indeed, the collapse is delayed by less than a decade.

Could technological change or limiting industrial output by themselves do any better? The technological changes used for Figure 2 have the most immediate impact, and delay the collapse the longest, but even these eventually reach their limits. It looks as though the whole package is necessary to make a genuine transition to a sustainable society. Of the three, however, population control is the slowest in its impact. If we don't move vigorously on changing to more efficient technologies and limiting our material consumption, all our efforts on population control will be too little and too late.

Another useful way of looking at this is with Paul Ehrlich's equation:

Impact = Population x Affluence x Technology or
I = PAT for short.

What we can say with some certainty is that the total human environmental impact is on an unsustainable path that will lead to social and environmental collapse if we don't soon change the growth patterns on the PAT side of the equation. Figure 2 shows how this could be done, and Figure 3 shows that we cannot rely on birth control alone, even in its most extreme form.

Let's take this a step further by asking the funda-

mental population question. Are there too many people? What is the Earth's carrying capacity for humans? How much is enough? Figure 2 says that the Earth could sustainably support, with a decent standard of living, about 8 billion of us — in other words the Earth is not necessarily overpopulated now. In my reading of the population literature, I find three underlying reasons for claiming that there are already too many people:

* A factual disagreement on the Earth's carrying capacity. Assessing this is far from easy, and depends heavily on what one assumes for the A and T parts of PAT. There is lots of room for disagreement here, and it is a topic that deserves increased attention.

By sending out a "too many people" message we inadvertently, yet significantly, contribute to a cultural climate that produces both more rapid population growth and lower-quality childhoods.

* A desire to minimize the social and economic changes required to reduce A and T. "If they would just stop having so many children, I could go on living in the style to which I am accustomed." As Figure 3 illustrates, this often unspoken, but nevertheless all too common attitude is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the time scales involved. Even the most extreme birth reduction will not eliminate the need for substantial changes in A and T.

* An essentially negative view of the value of human life. Here we get down to what may be an even more fundamental question: Can humans be a blessing to the planet? For those to whom the answer is no, the fewer humans the better. My own feeling is that one could well argue that today humanity as a whole is not a blessing, but I see enough examples of people who are that I can well imagine the balance shifting to the positive.

Are there too many people on the Earth? I would put it differently.

There is too much human impact, too much wasteful consumption, to many unloved children, too many uncaring people, and too many powerful institutions that reinforce uncaring and destructive behavior. History is forcing us to confront these excesses and social failures now. Once we have done so, we will be in a much better position to decide how many caring humans are enough for the Earth.

Getting Personal

These issues are not just abstract policy questions; they are also very personal. They hit home most profoundly in the question, "Should I have children?" We've encountered a great deal of debate, opinion and emotion (and generated some of our own!) on this pivotal personal question. I'd like to share some of what I've learned out of this debate as another illustration of the intricacy of the issues around population control.

Let's start with a sore spot in the culture: many people who have chosen to be childless, in part due to environmental concerns, feel unappreciated by those with children. On the other hand, many parents (who are raising those who will keep the society going as we all get older) feel unappreciated by the childless. Both have a point, yet both, from my perspective, do more harm than good when they argue that either voluntary childlessness or voluntary parenting is, in some general sense, better.

Consider first the flaws in the notion, often unconsciously assumed in our society, that every adult who can have children should do so:

* This idea is simply out of touch with historical reality. Most past societies have had a significant minority of voluntarily childless adults. Even as recently as 1920 in the US, 25% of women past childbearing age had never had children. If we find this at all strange, it is simply that our fragmented, nuclear-family-oriented society has lost its sense of history and lost the web of relationships that used to keep childless aunts and uncles still very much part of the family.

* In addition, concerns about overpopulation are legitimate, certainly legitimate enough so that no one should feel an obligation to have children just to keep the species going!

* Finally, many people can contribute much more fully to society without carrying the burdens that parenting often imposes.

Does this then mean that we should invert the society's bias and uphold childlessness as an ideal? Consider:

* As Figure 3 illustrates, even worldwide complete childlessness would not avert the collapse to which business as usual is taking us.

* Society needs good parents and well-raised children.

* Making childlessness into an ideal sends a powerful anti-parent and anti-child message — with far-reaching repercussions. In the US this is already illustrated by the great rise during the 1980s in the percentage of children living below the poverty line. We have tolerated this as a society because we increasingly see children (especially other people's children) as a burden, not a blessing. In other parts of the world, the same attitude is dramatically illustrated by the systematic killing of street children in Brazil, and much more broadly, by the low priority given to the needs of mothers and children. Ironically, low status for women and high death rates for children are two of the key factors driving the population explosion. So by sending out a "too many people" message we inadvertently, yet significantly, contribute to a cultural climate that produces both more rapid population growth and lower qualit childhoods!

So is it better to have children, or not to have them? The question itself is, I believe, wrong. There is no general answer. It all depends on who you are. The environment can benefit from fewer children and from well-raised children. There are selfish and unselfish reasons for both choices. Only in the specifics of each person's life can any judgment be made. The sooner we can celebrate the diversity that makes it good for one person to choose childlessness and simultaneously good for another to choose parenting, the sooner we will be able to get on with the real challenge of making the changes throughout our society that will lead to a humane and sustainable future.

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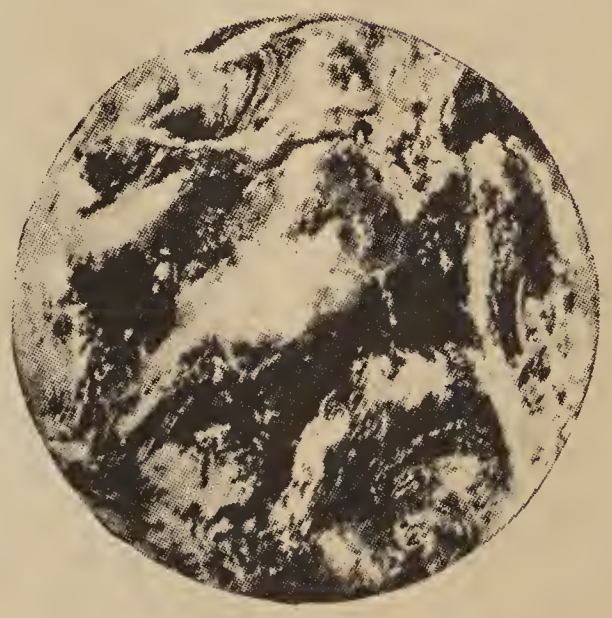


Putting the Lid on Alternative Remedies

by Lisa Alpine

"They arrested our B vitamins at gunpoint." - Dr. Jonathan Wright.

On May 6, 1992, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officers, enlisting help from the local police, raided Dr. Wright's clinic in Kent, Washington, confiscating nutrition supplements and patient records .

"FDA officials asked our help. We looked at the search warrant and saw it had been signed by a Federal magistrate. We made a critical mistake in not reading the search warrant, the FDA guys were all pumped up. It pumped us up. We were told to break down the doors. We didn't have any idea whom we would encounter. We knew that illegal drugs were involved. But FDA didn't' tell us it was for old ladies with allergies. The whole incident has been extremely embarrassing. We look and feel like Class A idiots." — King County Police who raided Wright's office.

Locally in May, 1991, the FDA, with the Department of Justice, raided Allergy Research Group of San Leandro, and put a restraining order on the sale of 14 of their nutritional supplement products. Stephen Levin, owner of Allergy Research, has since been battling back and forth in the courts to stay in business.

The reason for the FDA's crackdown on these businesses is they are at war against alternative medicine and health claims. With a bill passed in Congress in 1990 which was to take effect this November, called the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA), the FDA proposed regulations which would move towards making amino acids, medicinal herbs, and high potency vitamins available to the consumer by prescription only. The FDA tried to ram NLEA regulations through Congress but public outcry was so forceful that on October 7, Congress approved a moratorium that delays the release of final NLEA regulations until December 31, 1993.

In some states the FDA is already enforcing the NLEA. More than twenty health food stores in the United States have been raided by the FDA this year, while pharmaceutical companies have been left untouched although some of their products are known to cause harm to patients.

The Center for Disease Control has never found dietary supplements to be a health hazard. In eight years of review at the Poison Control Center there has been one report of possible death by a vitamin overdose. In contrast, between three and four hundred deaths by accidental prescription overdose are reported yearly.

Who will be affected by the NLEA? Acupuncturists, chiropractors, naturopathic and homeopathic doctors, herbalists, health food stores, consumers who rely on herbal remedies or who, like me, take supplements.

I have bruised very easily since I was a teenager. Thanks to Adele Davis, I improved my diet and started taking supplements. In my family, we took Vitamin C to ward off colds, an inexpensive remedy that seemed to work. I noticed that, after taking Vitamin C for two weeks, my legs were free of bluish bruises — no more brute boyfriend jokes were necessary. When I stopped taking the vitamin on a trip to Europe, the bruises returned. On my return, I took it again and they went away. I put this all together and realized it was the Vitamin C that helped prevent my bruising. since then I have taken 1000 mgs. daily (with no ill side effects); and if I forget on trips - I bruise. I have almost certain personal proof that Vitamin C with bioflavonoids is helping my body by strengthening the capillary walls.

With the new regulations the FDA is considering implementing, I will have to wait until the FDA approval of the "new drug," Vitamin C, and then spend $40 to $75 to go to a doctor for a prescription and maybe not be able, to get it in any higher doses than 90 mg. (three to six oranges worth), ineffective for my bruising problem.

If a doctor tells a patient to drink prune juice to help with constipation, he could be arrested for false information. In other countries that have socialized medicine, doctors use what works. There is no discrimination between herbal or pharmaceutical medicine. What would your grandma think about having to whisper about home remedies that have been passed down for centuries?

Why is the FDA so intent on limiting the alternative medicine field? The federal agency isn't reacting to consumer complaints of poisoning or health hazards since there have been few claims. The FDA has lumped nutritional companies into the same categories as charlatans, snake oil salesmen, and Savings and Loan executives.

The growing popularity of natural health alternatives in this country (in 1991 natural health food stores sales were over $4 billion, up 10% from 1990) may have antagonized pharmaceutical companies and the medical establishment. Drug manufacturers' research costs — as well as their profit margins — are high, and if herbal products continue to gain mainstream popularity, they could pose a real threat to the drug giants' bottom lines. Furthermore, many herbal products are unpatentable, so no one company can own exclusive rights to them.

The FDA was created at the turn of the century to monitor products for truth in labeling. The original mission of this agency was to ensure the public "pure foods/pure drugs" — free of contaminants, not to police consumers and their health care options.

Congress approved the NLEA last year to force the Agency to undertake a much-needed revision of the nation's outdated food labeling laws. FDA proposals would fulfill that mission, defining terms such as "light" and "Low fat," standardizing serving sizes and requiring manufacturers to reveal how much sugar, salt, and fat are in their products. All these are positive steps toward consumer awareness.

Consumer and industry groups, however, are concerned about the regulatory proposals because they would:

1. Ban certain supplements — selenium and chromium, for instance — essential nutrients which, if taken in overdose quantities, can be toxic, though there are no recorded cases of overdoses from minerals. This is not so with aspirin, where reports of overdose are common. Others on the hit list include rutin, PABA, vitamin/herbal bioflavonoid/Vitamin C combination formulas and amino acids.

2. Weaken provisions of the Proxmire Amendment designed to prevent the FDA from limiting vitamin potencies. The Proxmire bill was passed in 1976 to ensure Americans' rights to purchase supplements at levels in excess of U.S. recommended daily allowances.

3. Overly restrict health claims on products and in advertising even when a well-documented link has been established. For example, cereals containing fiber would not be able to claim that fiber can help prevent cancer.

4. Threaten sales and importation of medicinal herbs and other nonapproved nutrients.

5. Mislead consumers by switching the standard for nutrient intake from Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) to Required Daily Intake (RDI). Many scientists oppose the RDIs because they believe the standards underestimate the nutritional needs of large segments of the population, including the elderly and pregnant women. RDI guidelines state that nutrients found in supplements cannot be higher than those in conventional foods. The already low RDA mgs. will be lowered again by up to 80%. Supplements and herbs higher than the new FDA rigid standards will be considered unapproved drugs, adulterated foods, or unsafe additives. The penalties for selling these "dangerous"

products such as 400 unit capsules of Vitamin E would be confiscation of merchandise, fines up to $250,000 per infraction for individuals and up to $1,000,000 per infraction for corporations and records subpoenaed without court supervision. No other agency has been given such broad and constitutionally questionable powers. The FDA will be able to increase subpoena power, embargo authority, and have the ability to hand out huge civil penalties.

The FDA has until December 31, 1993 to consider the comments and release its final NLEA regulations. If the agency doesn't meet Congress' review deadline, three's a provision in the law that says the proposed regulations become final without taking into account public comment.

This June Senator Orrin Hatch — R-Utah introduced legislation to help protect dietary supplements from unnecessary regulation. The Health Freedom Act of 1992, bill #S.2835, is intended to protect the right of consumers to purchase dietary supplements, and the right of companies to sell supplements, "so long as the labeling and advertising is truthful and nonmisleading and there exists a reasonable scientific basis for product claims."

Hatch feels that "In our free market system, consumers should be able to purchase any food they want — whether it is an egg, ice cream, steak, coffee, or a dietary supplement — regardless of whether someone in the federal bureaucracy approves."

In his floor speech introducing this measure, Hatch harshly scolded the FDA for excessive regulation of an industry which is now moving from the shadows of health and nutritional theory to full acceptance among researchers that dietary supplements can help promote health and prevent certain diseases.

FDA officials claim Hatch is just a pawn of a large group of Utah-based dietary supplement companies who "routinely violate FDA laws, and Hatch is just trying to make their illegal acts legal." The FDA response, however, seems to ignore the large numbers of Americans who have accepted the value of using dietary supplements and unconventional medical therapies.

Why is the FDA so slow in recognizing possible curative affects of nutrients? When looked at carefully, it appears that there must be some competitive force at work here. Otherwise, why would so much energy and deception be put into making safe and natural health products harder to get than alcohol and tobacco, which we know kill people?

** ACTION STEPS **

Consumers can express their displeasure and request that their representatives initiate or support oversight committee hearings to investigate the FDA's implementation of the NLEA. Congress is the FDA's boss, so the most important person to send a letter to is your Congressperson. Also send copies to your two U.S. Senators, explaining your concerns about the NLEA regulations and the FDA Enforcement Bill and give your support of Hatch's bill #S.2835 (the House version was introduced by Bill Richardson).

If you don't know who your representatives are, call your local League of Women Voters.

Business Partnership for Peace

by Mitra

Businesses in this country have a lot of power and political leverage. A national organization, Business Partnership for Peace, has been formed to allow businesses to combine their resources in order to achieve political leverage. The organization is an offshoot of 1% for Peace, which for many years has funneled donations from businesses.

The first chapter of BPP has been formed in the Bay Area where regional and local meetings have brought businesses together to share their experiences and hear inspirational speakers such as Ben Cohen of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream.

Ben & Jerry's is a visible example that progressive politics and profit are not mutually exclusive. Now a $100 million a year company, they give away 7 percent of their pre-tax profits to worthwhile causes. But, as Ben put it at a recent BPP dinner, 7 percent of their maybe $1 million a year profits is only $70,000 whereas by the focused application of their entire expenditure they can have $100 million worth of influence.

For example, they buy the brownies for one of their popular flavors from a New York bakery that rehabilitates offenders.

As Ben explained, companies focus on the bottom-line because it is measured. Social and environmental impacts are typically not measured, so businesses tend not to work to improve them. Ben & Jerry's pioneered the concept of a social bottom line. Every department that produces financial reports is also expected to produce social reports showing how their division is affecting the community, the workers, their suppliers and the world at large. These social reports are collected and given equal billing in the annual report and shareholders meetings.

Ben & Jerry's growth is also proof that you don't need to advertise to expand. By focusing their marketing budget on things like producing community events they have raised the profile of the company while achieving social goals. After all, every time a business takes out an ad in a newspaper or on television, it is paying to promote the views of the editors and owners of that media.

Apart from networking and sharing experiences with other like-minded businesses BPP has a number of practical projects. Member businesses can contribute to produce Global Vision Ads to put a message in front of readers. Their first ad was a message from businesses opposed to the Iraq war.

BPP employs a lobbyist in Washington whose recent work has focused on the Earth Summit Leadership Act, which aims to put the US in the forefront of implementing key points from the Earth Summit. These points involve funding Environmentally Sustainable Development, reducing military assistance, reforming multilateral organizations like the World Bank, and reducing CO^2 emissions to slow global warming.

For the cost of what some spend on a business lunch, BPP members can provide the start-up capital for a small business in the Third World. Thanks to a generous contribution from Biobottoms, a Petaluma-based mail-order children's clothing business, BPP is sponsoring its first village bank, supporting 30-40 family businesses in Guatemala. These small loans are very effective at enabling families to start a business, even as little as an extra $5 a week for better food can mean the difference between nutrition and malnutrition for their children, and is far more effective in the long term than handouts.

With most US aid going either to military expenditures or mega-projects such as environmentally harmful dams, it is time to show that a smaller amount of money can have much larger effects. The amazing thing is that these loans have a 96 percent or better repayment due to the unique lending structure which lends only to women, and makes the whole of the lending community responsible for each loan.

Local businesses that are involved with BPP include Smith and Hawken, Rosewood Stone, Biobottoms, Uma Inc, and Double Rainbow and a number of smaller businesses. Join them and other businesses by calling Chrysthal Bennett at 424-0948 for the time and place of the next event.

Proposal for a Biodiversity Network

The activists of Northern California have been organizing for 10 years to protect ancient forests, other critical habitat and endangered species, and for the implementation of sound, sustainable forestry practices. The Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), Forests Forever, and the California Forest and Watershed Council (CFWC) are concerned with the current laws, regulations, and management affecting forested watersheds and the remaining critical habitat on private lands. These groups have brought the decimation of California's forest ecosystems to public attention.

The long-term objective of the Biodiversity Network Project is to form an ongoing network of regional councils, which encompass hundreds of urban and rural organizations, whose goals are to protect and restore the diverse threatened ecosystems throughout the state.

The recent past has shown how a corrupt state legislature, a silent media, and the hidden agendas of the large state and national environmental organizations will not respond to the concerns of the smaller local and regional organizations. Therefore the Biodiversity Network is necessary to provide a structure for communication which will enable the grassroots to speak with a unified voice and develop a more powerful common platform and plan of action for the protection of biodiversity.

The short-term objectives of the Biodiversity Network project are: to identify organizations and key activists in each region; to conduct conferences along the coast (San Francisco, Santa Barbara, LA and San Diego); to develop a common plan of action; and to increase participation of grassroots organizations in the bioregional planning efforts underway by the State Executive Council on Biodiversity (formed by the Secretary of Resources and 10 state and federal agencies).

Each conference will form a permanent regional council equivalent to the CFWC which will meet on a regular basis to create a statement of policy regarding actions needed to achieve environmental protection and restoration.

Similar projects are being conducted in the Sierras by Environment Now, and in the Central Valley by the California Action Network. The Biodiversity Network will focus on the coastal region.

For more information contact Ken Smith P.O. Box 3240, San Rafael, 921-3578,

SnapShots

SnapShots

Stop Junk Mail Association

The Stop Junk Mail Association is an educational and lobbying organization started by Michael Esh of Sausalito. It works to reduce the volume of unrequested mail for private citizens with the goals of reducing the consumption of forests for paper, and of supporting the individuals right to privacy.

Every time we use a credit card or write a check our name is made available through financial management companies. Even quasi-governmental organizations such as the DMV and US Postal Service make your name available when you fill out a change of address. The latter were the subject of recent congressional hearings on whether governmental organizations have a duty to respect people's privacy.

The environmental consequences of junk mail are well documented, around 74,000 trees are cut each year for catalogs. Much junk mail with its glossy finish or plastic windows cannot be recycled and ends up in the landfill. Paper production is the largest source of dioxin due to unnecessary use of chlorine-based bleaches.

The bottom line, Esh says "is the choice on how personal name and address information are used; the SJMA lobbies to protect this right, we assist the public by getting their names off mailing lists and informing them about how to protect themselves from unwanted intrusion through an information kit."

For more information on how to stop junk mail contact the Stop Junk Mail Association, 3020 Bridgeway, Suite 150, Sausalito 94965 or call (800) 827-5549. For a membership fee of $17.50, SMA will get your name off of 5 major lists, and send you comprehensive information and form letters for getting off lists.

PG&E's Energy Efficiency Program

by Mitra

Finally utilities are getting the message that it is cheaper to save energy than to generate more, even without taking into account the hidden costs of energy usage — global warming, pollution, deaths among miners etc.

In our area PG&E has started an innovative program where they will send somebody out to look over your house and recommend ways to save energy. I recently spent an interesting morning with Joan Bless from PG&E going over our house and another one.

We started off with a survey of our energy usage, and then went over the common areas where energy is wasted. Like most environmentally aware Marinites we installed low-flow shower heads during the drought, which apart from saving large quantities of precious water also save a lot of energy. The water heater was, however, set to high, and we turned it down to 120 degrees. None of us have noticed the change in water temperature. The other house had an old insulation blanket which looked like the rats had been chewing it up for nests. Joan installed a new blanket free of charge; she also recommended insulating the first 5 feet or so of the hot pipe coming out of the tank. While you are checking your tank for these things, make sure it is strapped to the wall so that it is safe from falling over in the next quake.

Our house is pretty well insulated in the roof and floors except for one room. Joan explained that a lot of energy would be saved by installing fiberglass under the floor of that room. Wall insulation is another option, but it is expensive, and often poorly installed, leading to potential problems with dampness at future dates. Joan advised us to be careful if we chose this option and to make sure to get references from sites who have had insulation installed several years before. Another key place to look for energy leaks are in the gaps around flues, pipes and electric outlets. The latter can be fixed with foam gaskets. Another recommended step is to insulate around the ducts that carry the hot air from the furnace to the vents in the rooms.

There are a number of other simple steps that you can take to improve the efficiency of heating, and it is well worth calling PG&E for their informative brochures.

One of the highest consumers of energy in a house is the refrigerator, Joan recommended that we clean the heat-exchanger coils frequently; we had already made sure that there was adequate air flow to the coils and around the fridge. Also we made sure that the thermostat wasn't set too low. For those with older fridges it is important to defrost them frequently as the ice build-up decreases their efficiency.

The other free gift Joan left us were two (different) compact fluorescent bulbs. I've always hated fluorescents, especially since the old office ones tend to flicker in a way that makes my eyes tired.

However these new ones are great. There is no flicker, and the color is fine. I now have bulbs installed in most of the sockets in the house (you cannot put them in any socket with a dimmer), and despite their initial high cost (of around $20) they will more than make up for it in longer life and reduced energy costs. If your local store doesn't have them, ask them why not!

To get your free inspection, leaflets, bulbs and waterheater blanket call Joan Bless at PG&E on 257-3440.

Russia -- a Time of Transition

by Mitra

Russia is a mad place as I discovered when I spent a couple of weeks there in July. At the moment Russia is in a period of rapid and unpredictable change. No one expects it to stay as it is, but everyone has different ideas of how it will turn out.

With the fall of a state which told you how to think, there is a noticeable attitude of wanting to try new things and break out of bonds. Even a small amount of rebelliousness stood out against the sameness of everyone else. For example, some people wore bright colored clothes against a backdrop of gray suits, a few flashy cars contrasted against the ubiquitous Lada (basically a sewing machine on wheels).

I had an interesting meeting with Greenpeace's Moscow director, Dima Litvinov, the son of a Russian dissident, was brought up in Boston and therefore is in a good position to bring American organizing experience to Russia. In one of those weird coincidences, I recognized him from the Red Zone Night Club a couple of nights before.

His understanding of the situation matched the impression I was already building. The biggest difficulty he outlined was based on the kind of society that most Russians had been brought up in. Russians understand two levels of activity, personal and governmental; the societal level is almost totally missing from the Russian experience. It is hard to imagine this, living in a country where everyone joins something -- from the Little League, to political parties, to environmental organizations, people combine together in organizations to extend

SNAPSHOTS

SnapShots

their influence. In Russia, people still do not believe that they as individuals can have any effect.

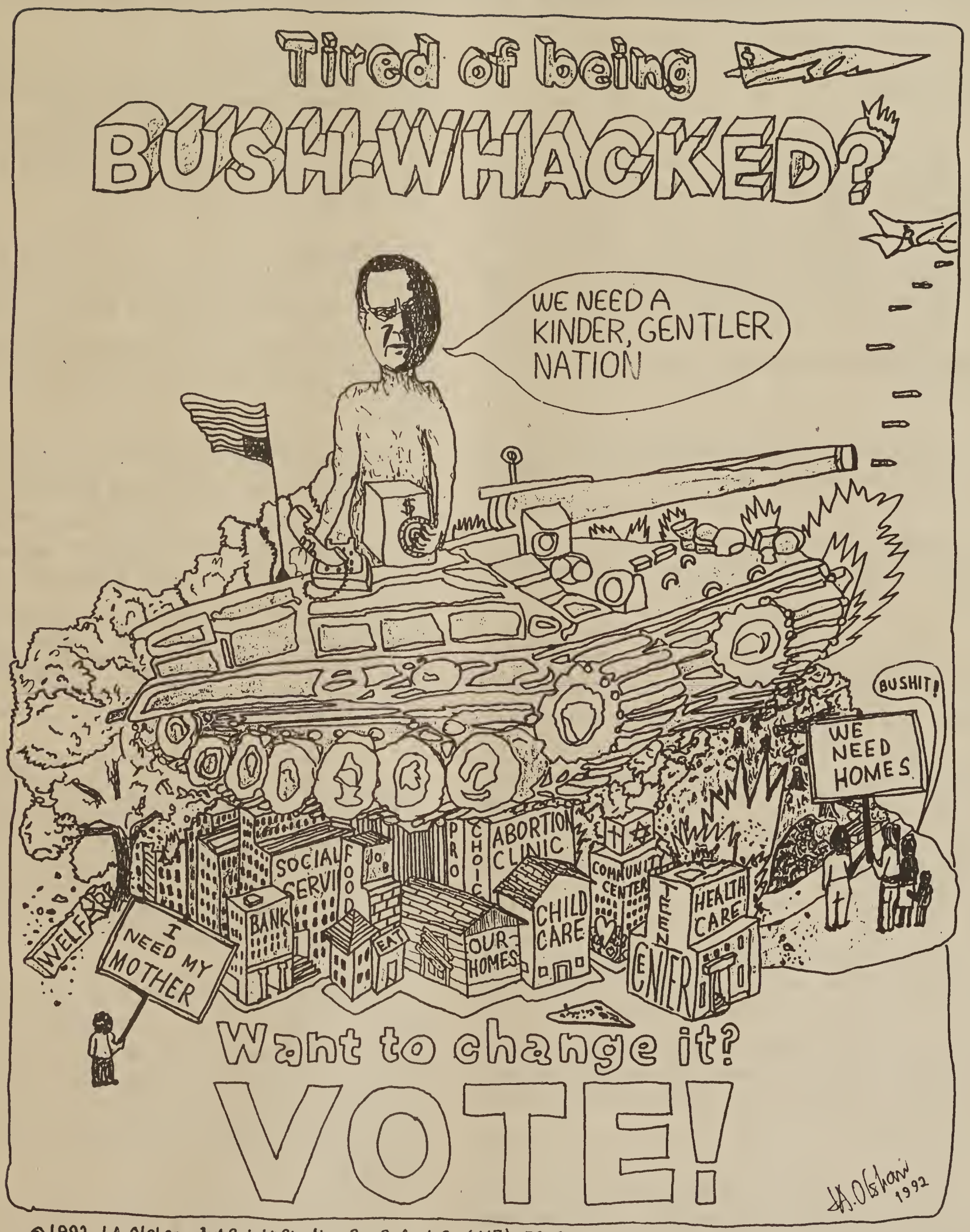
The other missing link in this society is the sense of personal impact on the environment. Recycling is non-existent, almost everyone smokes, vegetarianism is impossible (few vegetables), lights are left on, and water is left running since utilities are as good as free. There is trash and litter everywhere. Construction rubbish is dumped, often within site of the project it was obviously removed from. As a saying goes - if it's owned by everyone, it's owned by no one. It is a serious worry of most environmentalists, that once this lack of sense of personal responsibility gets linked with lax government regulation and a greater access to western consumer products even more serious problems will occur.

Among the strangest places I went during my trip was a newly opened night club called the Red Zone. It had only been open 3 days, and was located in what I guessed to be a basketball stadium. Parts of it -- the symbolic decorations, the super light show, even women's clothing -- could have been straight from a downtown S.F. Other parts, half of the men in jacket and tie, could only have been Russian. The cover charge was mostly western, determined by the pricing - $10 - which put it out of the reach of all but the wealthiest Russians. Women were admitted free which balanced out the mostly male foreigners. I talked to a Chinese women called Raysa; she had come to Moscow from Peking three years before to study pediatric medicine, and was happy to at last find a place to dance. The exotic floor show was something I didn't expect in Moscow. At times during the evening four cages were lowered from the ceiling and raised back up with an erotic dancer in each. To anyone accustomed to the nude beaches of Marin it was no big deal, but the Russians had obviously not seen anything like it before, and surprisingly even the women didn't find it offensive.

In the area of spirituality the most noticeable thing was the Hari Krishna's. Now an endangered species in U.S. airports, the Krishnas seem to have migrated to the Moscow metros. The weirdest thing was a poster that was obviously for the Krishnas. Since it was in Cyrillic it was just meaningless squiggles on the first day. After the first week I could decipher the first line "Hare Krishna", but it took till the end of the second week to read the last line "Rock Concert - Boy George". Of all the strange people to turn up as a Krishna in Moscow

A major difference came out of discussions with the people we were doing business with. This company had been only involved with defense contracts until recently; now, instead of hiring a lobbyist to try and preserve the military budget, they were courting Western (civilian) businesses to find non-defense oriented work.

I look forward to going back to Moscow soon. A society in change is also a society of opportunity, but who knows how it will turn out.



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Supervisors' Races:
The Godfather and the Fairy Godmothers

by Jill Kramer

Will the November elections produce the first-ever female majority on the Marin County Board of Supervisors? Supervisor Brady Bevis is assured of having at least one sister-supe, with Annette Rose and Betty Times vying for the Southern Marin seat vacated by Al Aramburu. But West Marin voters could effect a sea change in the very character of the board if they decide to replace veteran Gary Giacomini with Dotty LeMieux.

Tacked to the inside of Giacomini's office door is a movie poster of Marlon Brando as "The Godfather," a role that Giacomini cheerfully admits he sees as his own. With 20 years of service on the board, he views himself as a benevolent dictator, loyally protecting his realm.

"No one cares about this district as much as I," he says. "I would die for it, especially its resources and its people and the uniqueness of the West Marin community. We've got enormous decentralized services -- libraries, fire stations, health and human services -- that I brought there and I'll keep there, even under tough budget pressures. The pressure is to consolidate everything for economic reasons, and they can't do that as long as I'm here."

But challenger LeMieux is counting on voters seeing a more sinister side to Giacomini-as-Godfather. In her view, Giacomini exemplifies the old boys' network -- an entrenched politician committed to protecting the status quo. "I don't think 20 years of sitting in one seat creating a kingdom for yourself is positive experience," she says.

On the assumption that she wins, LeMieux envisions a board that is more accessible to the public and amenable to change. "Whoever wins in District 3, I think, is going to be light years away from the person that's sitting there now (Al Aramburu). (The board is) going to be more open to public participation. There's not going to be this old boys' club, like there has been, with a hammerlock on the county.

"I think it's going to be a change in attitude. I think people are going to feel that they have their county back. I think communcation's going to be better between supervisors and the county staff as well as the public. I think there's going to be innovation in bugeting."

Giacomini and the other men on the board have been criticized for their hostile reception of budget innovations proposed by County Clerk Howard Hanson. His suggestions included a revamping of the budget presentation to make it more understandable to the public. He also called for reconsideration of certain county expenditures like use of the county garage for maintaining officials' vehicles -- as well as the vehicles themselves.

"People feel that there are too many perks," says LeMieux. "Our priorities should be health and human servfices. We're closing clinics and laying off public health nurses, cutting paramedic services. And at the same time we're giving top county officials new Buicks and cellular phones and who knows what else. There's something really wrong there."

Giacomini counters that, for one thing, he has always welcomed public participation in the budget process. He also says that the various county departments are responding to Hanson's suggestions, and they're saying that, for the most part, they've already been considered and rejected in the past as not cost-efficient.

Giacomini protests that health and human services

is a priority for him -- so much so that Hanson's questioning of expenditures in that area is the one issue that upset him.

"He attacked the fact that it cost the county $3,000 per person to take care of our mental health clients," says Giacomini. "And I said, that's really treacherous. I know a woman just last week we spent $55,000 on. She came in with AIDS, tripping into the hospital door. We tried to save her life. What would you have us do? Just say, sorry, $3,000 per person is too much? I think one of our prime obligations is to take care of people in need. I'm on the Mental Health Advisory Board, maybe that's why I'm so prickly about it. We already deny our people services. It costs what it costs to take care of people in need. I don't know any short way around that."

LeMieux suggests that one way around the problem is to take some of the money now earmarked for the jail and shift it into health and human services. "We have no problem spending money on a new jail, and we can't put the money into health and human services and keeping people out of jail," she says. "I think the priorities are very skewed toward locking people up, and I think they should be in the other direction."

LeMieux believes that Giacomini and the other jail advocates on the board have given short shrift to suggestions for alternative sentencing programs that could enable the county to build a smaller, less expensive jail.

"In 1984 I was on the Adult Crimminal Justice Commission," says LeMieux, "and we came up with a plan to build a 150-bed jail at the Honor Farm site, and that's one possibility that was never examined. They're pursuing the most expensive, biggest jail possible, in the worst place. And there's a vote coming up in November and they have subverted the process once again of the people to vote on whether they want this thing or not. I think it's just arrogance."

LeMieux refers to the November ballot measure, aimed at blocking the jail, that proposes a moratorium on new construction at the Civic Center. Brady Bevis had suggested that the county postpone groundbreaking until] after the vote. So as not to risk losing the state funding that was hinged on a September start date for construction, she proposed asking for another extension on the deadline (there have been several). The other four supervisors nixed her idea, saying there was no point in even asking.

Giacomini pulls out a letter from the state Board of Corrections that rejects an earlier request for an extension. "This is about as unequivocal as you can get," he says. "Plus, we had gone to the hearings and they said, if Marin County comes back in here one more time, we're moving the money to Ventura County. If we could have gotten an extension, we would have. One thing I'm not going to do is blow the state money. One of the things we're so happy about is we have the money, we don't have to take it away from any existing services. We have the state grant and we have saved up, through fines and forfeitures, the rest of the money."

LeMieux doesn't believe that a postponement would jeopardize the funding. "We haven't lost it in six years," she says. "Every year they say they'll pull the money and they never do. Money is always there for jails."

The two candidates also disagree on the merits of the Buck Center for Research in Aging. Giacomini has been one of the center's principal advocates ever since it was created by court settlement. The decision, to which the state Attorney General agreed, was that income from the $500 million Buck Trust could only be spent in Marin, with 20 percent allocated to three special projects. The Buck Center was named as the special project that would receive 75 percent of that set-aside money.

Foes of the center have raised questions about a number of issues -- from its financial viability to zoning problems. A lawsuit is pending on whether the judge who created it was legally entitled to decide how trust funds could be spent.

Giacomini warns that a legal review of the ruling could jeopardize the Marin-only stipulation. "To disturb the Buck Center is to disturb the whole decision of the $500 million. And as the Attorney General said before the Board of Supervisors a couple of months ago, if anyone does that, then we will revisit the whole issue of the $500 million. The risk here would be to lose the whole $500 million, which would be tragic indeed."

Again, LeMieux doesn't buy into predictions of dire loss. "I think if the Buck Center was successfully challenged, all it would mean is that they would have to pick another project. I don't think it would affect the whole trust, and I don't think the Marin-only ruling would fall. It was written in the will it was Marin only, and it's very hard to change the terms of a will. I think it's a big boondoggle that should never have happened. It was a settlement that was agreed upon by the big wheelers and dealers of the county. But I'm not a part of any challenge, and if I'm elected my only job will be to look at the environmental impact report and make a determination based on the merits."

LeMieux, an environmental attorney, has doubts about the suitability of the site chosen for the research center and the housing and recreation facilities to be built nearby. The complex has been sited on Mt. Burdell in Novato, which is zoned A-60, for agricultural use.

"I feel that it is a threat to the A-60 zoning," says LeMieux. "It's an inappropriate use of agriculture land, for such an intense institutional use. I think it has a lot of potential environmental problems, from traffic to toxic waste. I'm not against research per se, but it seems to me that such a high-tech scientific research facility out in the boonies, not attached to any university or other institutions, doesn't make sense."

Giacomini, who has always been a staunch defender of agricultural lands, denies that any A-60 zoning would have to be changed. "(The Buck Center) isn't on A-60 land or I'd never support it. I was the swing vote that created A-60, and we've never lost an acre of A-60 since I've been here, and we never will. Where they're going to build the Buck Center is in a quarry that's not on A-60 land."

(Not true, says Planning Department staffer Dean Powell. The entire Buck Center property is in fact on A-60 land. The construction site, however, is designated as part of the "city-centered corridor," and the county General Plan allows for A-60 lands in that corridor to be re-zoned on a case-by-case basis. Powell says that numerous properties have already been through that re-zoning process. Another option for the board is to allow the Buck Center facilities under the existing A-60 zoning.)

Generally, both candidates have strong environmental credentials, but LeMieux has won the endorsement of the Sierra Club. Both advocate wetlands protection as well as affordable housing development, which, in Marin, is a bit like having one's cake and eating it, too. County and city planners are eyeing the St. Vincent's/Silveira ranchland as the last stretch of property large enough to accommodate a mix of development that would make a substantial amount of affordable housing finnacially feasible. But the eastern portion of the property is wetlands, and the western side near the freeway is a dairy.

LeMieux appears to lean more heavily toward conservation than housing. "We need to be looking at all the alternatives before we set them in concrete and develop our last remaining lands," she says. "There's always been this unwritten deal that the 101 corridor would be developed and West Marin would be undeveloped, and that's been the deal since the early '70s. I think that we need to rethink that deal and think about what the development is going to look like.

"We need more affordable housing, but let's look at where we're going to put it and what the impact is, what the environmental needs are and what the economy is. We've learned a lot in 20 years about environmental protection, the loss of wetlands. And we know there are a lot of people one paycheck away from homelessness. So we need to throw the whole thing open and look at it."

LeMieux would like to see the agricultural portion of the property preserved with the establishment of organic vegetable farms, as suggested by the Marin Conservation League. Giacomini, on the other hand, is resigned to sacrificing the ranch.

"It's so isolated, it's the only dairy left on the corridor," says Giacomini. "Isolated ranches don't work because it's hard to get services to come there, milk trucks don't go there anymore. And inevitably, neighbors don't like it because of the cowshit. When I was a kid, all the land was dairy, and I would love to go back to that day, but I don't think that one dairy there is going to be sustained." He also doubts that organic farming could be productive on that land.

He believes, however, that Marin Conservation League is willing to compromise on the issue of housing and how strictly to define the wetlands area. "In the end, the League and I will be in accord. Right now there's negotiations going on between the planning commission and MCL as to what they want to have happen this side of the true wetlands. Where you draw that line is going to decide whether or not you're going to have affordable housing out at St. Vincent's/Silveira. So it looks to me that they're forging a consensus and there'll be room on that land for some affordable housing on the part nearest the freeway, and the rest will be protected, east of that line."

If the environmentalist vote is LeMieux's by a squeaker, the women's vote is still up for grabs. Giacomini's reputation is strong enough on feminist issues that the National Women's Political Caucus, of which LeMieux is co-vice-chair, is split on whom to endorse. On a personal level, one of the two Caucus chairs has come out for Giacomini, the other backs LeMieux.

"There's a very strong support for women in government," says Giacomini, "and that is, I think, the hardest thing that I have to deal with. But in terms of women's issues, I've been there long before it was in vogue, and I'm a supporter of most of the issues that women care about, with vigor."

Between the Year of the Woman and pervasive anti-incumbency rage, Giacomini has probably never felt so vulnerable. One of the ways he's fighting back is by presenting LeMieux as a quitter. He charges that "the only two things she's ever done" -- her service on the Bolinas Public Utilities District and Bolinas Community Land Trust -- were posts that she quit after a brief time "because the pressure was too great."

"He's so full of b.s. it's unbelievable," says LeMieux when informed of his accusation. She says she served on BPUD for four-and-a-half years and on the board of the land trust for ten, much of it as president. She left the land trust in July in order to devote more time to this race. And she resigned from BPUD in 1986 in protest against what she and another director considered an undemocratic process.

"We were trying to build a bridge with the county for more cooperative action, and we were meeting with intransigence on the board," says LeMieux. "So I resigned from my position on the board and worked with a citizens' ad hoc committee. It was a very successful move. We forced an election -- they were going to appoint somebody -- and it became very open. A qualified woman was elected, and it's now a much healthier atmosphere since then." LeMieux now sees herself as a force for mor open government on the county level.

The issue of open government is also raised by the candidates for the Southern Marin seat, Annette Rose and Betty Times. They both criticize the way the men on the board received Howard Hanson's budget suggestions, in remarkably similar terms.

"I think it's always a very good thing whenever anyone comes forward with criticism of a system," says Annette Rose, "and I think they always need to be looked at. I was very disappointed that the board of supervisors -- of course Brady was an exception to this -- that they felt as individuals personally attacked rather than saying, well, Howard, this could be a good point, let's check into it."

Says Betty Times, "What I think Howard did was something the board should have been doing: raise your level of consciousness. Think -- are there other ways of doing things? And if an employee comes to you with an idea, say thank you, whether you use it or not. At least look at it."

While Giacomini and LeMieux often take stands on the opposite poles of an issue, Rose and Times are usually somewhere in the middle. Both tend to approach a controversy by saying, let's reexamine it and come to a compromise.

Where they differ most strikingly is in their backgrounds. Times has been a county employee for 28 years. For the last 14 years, until retiring recently to run her campaign, she directed the Citizens Service Office, administering eight county programs including Affirmative Action, the Adult Criminal Justice Commission and the Human Rights Resource Center. She consequently has very strong feelings about program cuts, particularly in health and human services.

"For me, budget priorities are people first. I have a hard time dealing with major cuts in mental health services and services that support people to be able to maintain an existence in this county. I also believe we need to maintain a quality program in terms of emergency fire services."

As a long-time resident of Marin City, she is also a passionate supporter of the Marin City USA project, and of affordable housing elsewhere in the county.

Annette Rose comes from city government. She has served on the Sausalito City Council for the last four years, with one year as mayor. As supervisor, she would involve the cities more in county land use planning.

"Right now the (countywide) plan has 11 holes in it," she says. "It does not incorporate the data from the 11 cities, all of whom have passed or are passing new general plans -- what each community sees as its total buildout, what it recommends for its sphere of influence. None of those discussions have taken place."

Living on the Sausalito waterfront, she has also been very involved in the houseboat wars. She feels that Supervisor Aramburu has not done enough to bring about a settlement that would allow the Gates Coop houseboat community to remain intact.

"I think from my experience in knowing both the individuals and the philosophies involved, I can go a long way to bringing about a resolution. As it is, we have the worst of all possible worlds: people living on the edge of despair, not knowing whether their boat will be able to exist going into the next week or the next month. On the other hand, we've not really been able to clean up the bay."

Rose has won the endorsement of the Sierra Club for her advocacy of bay and wetlands protection, and for establishing city programs such as Sausalito's polystyrene dropoff and pesticide-free parks.

Times, on the other hand, would like to see some relaxation of the rules requiring environmental impact reports for the sake of affordable housing. "I would hope that we would have a planning process that would not entail such humongous amounts of money for environmental impact reports, but could look at the project in total to see the viability of it and let that project move through."

While both candidates call for a balance between human and environmental needs, Times consistently weighs in more heavily on the human side of the equation, while Rose focuses on the environment.

Asked her opinion on budget cuts in health and human services, Rose responds, "I can't tell you right now that the cuts made to date and where they've been made have been inappropriate," says Rose. "It might be very popular to say that and to lambaste the supervisors on it, but I don't think it would necessarily be the responsible thing to say. There have been very few cuts, actually, up until now. It was originally stated that health and human services has been hit a lot but they haven't been. This budget cut time now it will be."

Times and Rose both express concerns about a threat to A-60 zoning by siting the Buck Center on Mt. Burdell. For Times, however, the issue of research versus direct services also comes into play. "I would like to see the Buck Center provide a direct service to the seniors now living in this county," says Times. "A lot of people think that it's in concrete that it's just going to be research, but I think they need to re-think it. I think they could bring a lot of people around if they developed a project that would benefit the seniors of Marin county now. They're spending money on things that the majority of the community feels are extravagant."

Rose thinks that the Buck Center plan, as it stands now, is poor land use policy. A supporter of pedestrian pockets, she objects to the distance between the housing and the research center. "They have 131 units of housing in one location and a research facility over here with 500 parking spaces. So you have to drive to work, which seems to me not to be what it's all about."

Both candidates have questions about the new jail, particularly in proceeding with construction before the November ballot measure. "Many of the supervisors have been in office for so long," says Rose,"they presumably have tried quite hard to reach a sensible solution on some sort of jail over a nine-or ten-year period and so you really buy into the solution and it's very, very

difficult to stand back and say, whoa, this horse is running out of control in the wrong direction because conditions have changed.

"What we're seeing now across the country is a drop in adult crime and crime on most levels and this is because of demographics. We have the lowest number of young men between the ages of 18 and 24 that we have ever had in the history of the country. We have very little overcrowding now and so a new solution could be cheerfully looked at. "

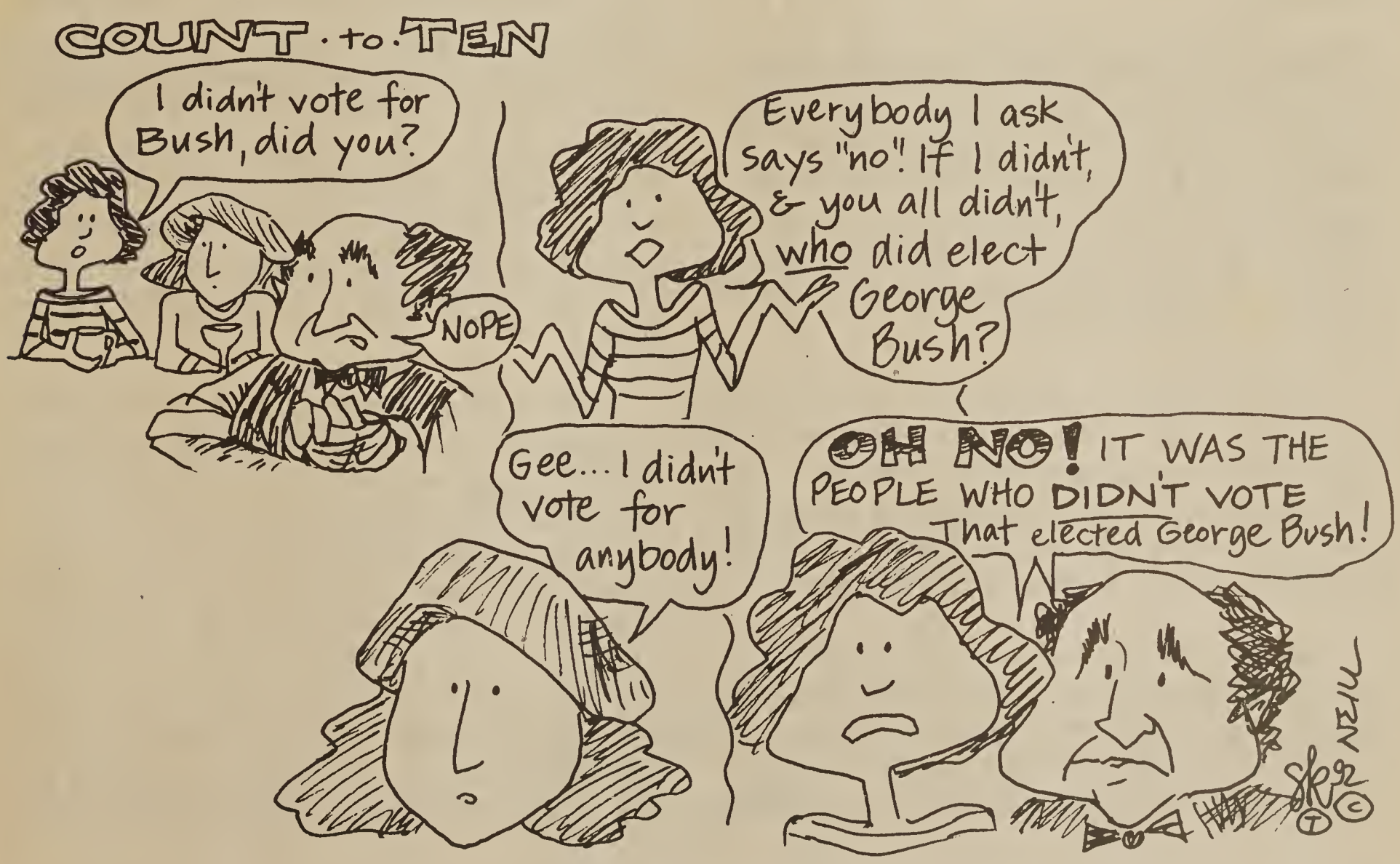
"We probably don't need a jail as large as the one they're contemplating," says Times. "If you built one with 150-190 cells, that probably could accommodate the needs for a long time." Times thinks that new consideration should be given to the idea of having the jail and the Honor Farm on the same site. She strongly opposes moving the Honor Farm to San Quentin.

"Having an Honor Farm in a state prison just doesn't sit well with me. We're talking about people arrested for driving under the influence, or petty crimes. Laundry and meals would be delivered to the Honor Farm by prisoners. They'll be commingling."

On a personal level, each of the two candidates has a special appeal to a different constituency. As the first African-American to serve on the board, Times feels that she would make a big difference to the people of color in Marin. Rose believes that, as the only supervisor with a school-age child, she would be a more active participant in the community than the board members whose children have already grown.

Rose and Times also differ in terms of style. Rose has been in politics long enough to guard her words, not saying anything that might offend a future colleague. Asked how her representation, as a woman, would differ from her predecessor's, she replied, "I don't think it should be necessarily a gender issue."

When Times was asked about her feeling regarding a potential new female-majority board, she grinned and said, "Wouldn't that be something? Can you imagine what this county would be like if we had three of us making policy decisions? I think it would be different. I think we don't get so involved in our own political egos. We don't just take hard stands on issues, we try and look at both sides, and try and bring people along with us."


COUNT · to · TEN
I didn't vote for Bush, did you?
NOPE
Everybody I ask says "no"! If I didn't, & you all didn't, who did elect George Bush?
Gee... I didn't vote for anybody!
OH NO! IT WAS THE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T VOTE That elected George Bush!
NEIL

The Agricultural Initiative
Knee-Jerk Planning at its Finest

by Wendi Kallins

The Marin Agricultural Initiative has invoked extreme charges from both sides of the fence. Its proponents charge that the power brokers don't like it because it cuts into their cozy power base. The opponents charge that Marin Watch, its sponsors, have their own hidden agenda -- to stop the Buck Center -- and are using this initiative as a smoke screen for their own special interest. Many of the charges hurled across the battlefield are exaggerations, but one thing is clear: the Marin Agricultural Initiative is bad planning. It may, in certain instances produce the desired results -- not necessarily to preserve agriculture but to prevent development, or at least make it very unpalatable for investors. But at the same time it will put a monkey wrench into any effort to produce a comprehensive plan for the Eastern Corridor that can adequately address all of the pressing problems in that region.

Perhaps most insidious about this initiative is that it is a "People's" initiative that is nearly impossible for the "People" to understand. To decipher its program of implementation takes someone well-versed in planningese with a current copy of the Title 22 zoning ordinance handy. As planning director Mark Reisenfeld put it, "You have to know the code backwards and forwards to understand this thing."

No one reading the proposals for general plan amendments would be able to know what they are implementing because they refer to sections of the code, parcel maps and other requirements that are not specifically spelled out within the ordinance. Section 22.57.032 of Title 22 is Greek to the average voter.

One of the bottom lines within the changes proposed by these hieroglyphs is that it would change the zoning on Mt. Burdell, the proposed location for the Buck Center on Aging, to exclude institutional or philanthropic uses. This would preclude the Buck Center and it would have to go to a vote of the electorate to allow it to move forward. In this way, the initiative very definitely puts a chink in the Buck Center proposal.

Yet it also affects other lands zoned A-60 and puts restrictions on them that could cause hardships to those who really do want to continue ranching. The uses identified in the zoning codes referred to by the initiative leave off traditional agricultural land uses. It then becomes muddy whether ranchers would need to go through a cumbersome and expensive countywide election for simple changes. The proponents call this a red herring and claim the use permit process would be sufficient. But the fact that this matter is in dispute points to the lack of care and research that was actually put into drafting this initiative.

It is curious that the initiative contains certain criteria and arbitrarily excludes others. For instance, consideration of ridgelines, geologic hazards and clustering of units is included; fire protection, energy conservation and the requirement for a agricultural management plan are not. The major requirement for master planning is specifically excluded -- the one criteria that ensures a comprehensive overview of any property. This makes no sense at all and endangers these lands much more than they would be under current requirements.

Perhaps the most frightening aspect to the Marin Watch initiative is its approach to the bayfront corridor. Rather than put a comprehensive and unified zoning on these properties, identifying constraints and taking special care to protect wetlands, the initiative simply freezes the status quo. Its only advantage is that it would not allow any greater densities on these properties. In the case of St. Vincents/Silveira, one of the most hotly contested pieces of real estate, it locks in an archaic zoning of one unit every two acres, minimum lot size, which could devastate the property and deeply encroach on the wetlands and the agricultural operations.

It denies the opportunity to provide affordable housing by its very nature. As unpalatable as it seems, affordability and density are inextricably linked and to provide such housing would require density bonuses. This initiative prevents that possibility. For some, especially those that are more interested in preserving the status quo than they are with solving problems, that may be a plus. For those who are as concerned about social needs as they are about the environment and recognize that both are equally important to our community fabric, the prospect is alarming.

The last laugh is that San Rafael can simply annex these lands and the initiative is null and void. San Rafael can then proceed to do as it pleases and the rest of the county will have to stand by helpless to stop it.

Marin Watch compares this initiative to the ones passed in Napa and in San Mateo, claiming to be using the same criteria. Yet the Napa Ag Initiative took a much more comprehensive approach, setting policy while allowing the legislature to handle the mechanics. The San Mateo initiative was based on a comprehensive adoption of the coastal zone, and did not apply to areas in and around its city-centered corridor. The Marin initiative assumes a simplistic, one-dimensional approach to planning that belies the complexity of issues that are always involved in decision making.

Perhaps the most galling aspect of this initiative is its timing. It is setting out to amend the county plan when the county is currently reviewing the plan in its entirety. While this may be a blow to political bosses who would feel their turf threatened, it equally insults private citizens, who have spent exhaustive time and energy participating in a public process. This is the main reason so many organizations have united against it. Marin Watch members have not participated in the county planning process, have never presented a position paper, have never addressed either the Countywide Planning Agency nor the County Planning Commission, and are seemingly ignorant of the movement that is already being made to protect both agriculture and the baylands in the city-centered corridor.

To say that elections are the only means of defining democracy is to side with the conservative right-wingers who point with pride to corrupt Third-World countries and say that because they had an election, they have democracy. Real democracy is when everyone comes together in a room and presents their various points of view, trying to reach some kind of consensus. This is the process now ongoing within the County Planning Commission. When the smoke clears, some may feel short-changed and at that time, an initiative process may be in order to protect various lands. To do so now is premature and would torpedo the current process, thus leaving many important needs such as housing unanswered.

The Marin Ag Initiative is a quick-fix, simplistic solution to a complex set of needs. It's real nice to say that if we just stop all development everything will remain as it is, but that is not the case and never has been. Marin Watch should go back to its job of fighting the Buck Center on Aging and leave off comprehensive planning unless they are willing to join with the other citizens in the game already in progress.

Right to Vote on New Jail

by Alan Barnett, Marin Advocates for Justice and Preserve Our Civic Center Coalition.

Over 14,000 petition signatures this spring have won Marin voters the chance of deciding on November 4 whether they should recover the right to vote on a new pre-trial jail. Specifically they will choose whether they should vote on any new construction at the Civic Center.

If the ballot measure succeeds, voters will have to vote again to decide whether the jail should be built there. Rather than going through another vote, the Board of Supervisors may get the message and seek another site and smaller jail.

This process is the result of the Board ignoring two previous votes against the jail, one in 1987 -- the other in 1988. In the last, 75% of voters turned down a jail of the same size — 300 beds — also in the hill adjoining the Civic Center.

After their 1988 drubbing, the Supervisors decided to end-run the electorate by selling bonds without a vote, which will have to be paid for by skimming more than a million dollars each year from the budget over the next 20 years, at a time of continuing cutbacks in other services.

The Supervisors have refused to seek an extension of the September 30 deadline set by the State for its contribution of $7.2 million to the project, although the State would likely have agreed if asked by the Board. That leaves us the option of going to court to prevent the start of construction at the end of September or to wait a month until the vote, which the court may decide any way as the appropriate time since it will then know whether there is an issue. We will have to study how to move. (*ed - the challenge failed, and construction started in September*)

One of the members of our coalition opposing the new Civic Center jail, the Marin United Taxpayers Association, points out that the State's money will cover only half the excess cost of the building at the Civic Center because it is an unconventional site. It would cost the County less to build elsewhere even at the risk of losing the State funds.

The Supervisors have chosen the Civic Center because real estate interests see a jail elsewhere as threatening property values. Thus taxpayers are being asked to subsidize the developers. With debt service, this will carry the total construction tab to about $60 million.

The Marin Advocates for Justice oppose the jail mainly because it would be twice as big as Marin needs. Even the Supervisors' own consultant says it would incarcerate people who shouldn't be in it — the mentally ill, the homeless, drug and alcohol abusers and foreign-speaking refugees, all of whom require social services which don't exist. The proposed jail is slated to have the largest public mental health facility in Marin.

Joining us for aesthetic reasons in opposing the jail at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Civic Center are Marin Heritage, the American Association of University Women, consumer activist Sylvia Siegel and a group of Bay Area architects. Moreover, the National Park Service, which granted the Civic Center national landmark status last year, has declared it a first priority endangered landmark.

Also on the November ballot will be a new bond put there by the Marin Municipal Water District. This would provide water from the Russian River that will make it possible for the State to double the size of San Quentin, making it not only the largest prison in California and the nation, but, according to the State Department of Corrections, the biggest in the world with over 10,800 prisoners.

Thus "Marvelous Marin," famous for its open spaces, will become a penal county with the world's biggest lock-up. All of this is occurring when the State is bankrupt and two recently completed California prisons and three jails cannot be opened because there are no funds to operate them. Nor can the State nor the County afford the social services that keep people out of prison and jail.

Prop 165
Stick it to the Poor

by Paul Spitler

Proposition 165, the Government Accountability and Taxpayer Protection Act of 1992, is an attempt to deal with two pressing issues in California: the budget process and welfare reform. While it does contain some legitimate reforms, it also incorporates many regressive policies and highjacks the system of checks and balances in the budget process. The results of these changes would be unrestrained power for the Governor in creating a budget while hurting the people who need help the most—those on state aid.

The initiative incorporates several measures designed to allow the Governor to keep a balanced budget. Under Prop 165, the governor can declare a fiscal emergency if no budget is passed by July 1, In this case, the previous year's budget would remain in effect (except for increases required by the Constitution) and the Governor be allowed to cut any programs not protected by law.

The Governor could also declare a fiscal emercency if during the year state revenues fall by 3%, expenditures exceed the budget by 3%, or if the combination of revenues and expenditures are each 1.5% off. These budget estimates are calculated by the Governor-appointed Department of Finance. After a fiscal emergency is declared, the Governor could cut any expenditures except those protected by the constitution.

Once a budget is written by the Governor, it cannot be altered without his approval. The legislature can approve a new budget by a two-thirds margin, but this does not go into effect unless the governor signs it. In effect, this means that the Governor has to sign his own veto!

This unrestrained power would put many state programs in jeapordy. Last year, the Governor proposed $2.3 billion in cuts to education, eliminating dental care from Medi-Cal, and deep cuts for AFDC and other state aid programs. These proposals were denied by the state legislature, but if Prop 165 had been in effect, the governor would have had his way. The system of checks and balances would be removed under Prop 165, and one man, the Governor, would receive too much power.

Prop 165 also proposes deep cuts into the state Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. Under Prop 165, families receiving AFDC would receive immediate 10% cuts and an additional 15% cut if they remain on aid for longer than 6 months. These cuts would be offset by an increase in food stamps, but the net loss of benefits would be around 11% for families on aid longer than 6 months. For a family of three, the results would mean a reduction of cash aid from $663 to $507, while food stamps would increase from $139 to $209. The maximum amount of aid for an individual would decrease to $326 to $249 after six months on aid. This would leave an individual only $249 a month to cover rent, electricity, phone, clothes, transportation and uninsured medical bills.

Prop 165 would also eliminate indefinately the annual Cost of Living increases for AFDC and other state aid programs which benefit seniors, disabled, and unemployed. The measure would also eliminate aid to pregnant women, and deny any increases in aid to mothers who have children while on aid, leaving those children uncovered.

A study by the San Francisco Department of Social Services has estimated that passage of Proposition 165 could result in 95,000 families becoming homeless statewide. While these numbers are questionable, experts agree that if Prop. 165 passes, the results would be more homelessness, hunger and poverty, especially for chilren, seniors and the disabled.

The problems with the state budget and welfare are very serious and need to be exmined but Prop 165 is not the answer. Removing the system of checks and balances while imposing across the board cuts in aid for the needy will not offer any long term solutions but will threaten the integrity of our democratic process while causing more pain to the needy.

Prop 165 is opposed by the League of Women Voters, the California State Parent/Teachers Association, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and a coalition of labor unions and advocacy organizations. For more information or to get involved in opposing Prop 165, contact the Marin Center for Peace and Justice at 459-5676.

Prop 167
Eat the Rich

by Paul Spitler

The "trickle down" tax policies of the 1980s have failed and must be abandoned. Tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy have made the rich richer while leveraged buyouts, junk bonds, excessive executive pay and deregulation of savings and loans have destroyed jobs and threatened the economic security of millions of Californians.

Welcome to Proposition 167, the Economic Recovery and Tax Relief Act of 1992, also known as the "Tax the Rich" initiative. The Act is a radical proposal which aims to redirect the state's economic priorities by increasing taxes on corporations and upper-income individuals.

According to its sponsors, the initative is a response to years of regressive tax policies which have allowed large corporations numerous tax breaks, while increasing tax burdens on middle and lower income taxpayers. These policies are costing the state billions of dollars annually. The measure would close a number of tax loopholes for corporations, including a gaping hole in business property tax that allows large corporations to avoid property reassessment therefore avoiding higher taxes. Under this loophole, some corporations are still paying taxes based on 1975 property assessments. Closing this loophole will raise up to $1.3 billion yearly.

The Act would also initiate a number of new taxes on corporations, and would raise tax rates for corporations, banks, oil companies, insurance agencies and those earning over $500,000. It would offer relief to individuals by repealing the temporary 1/4 cent sales tax, as well as the "snack tax" on snacks, candy, newspapers and magazines. According to the legislative analyst's office, the measure would increase state revenue by $1.1 billion to $2.1 billion yearly after 1992.

The measure is an attempt to redirect state taxation policy to favor small businesses and individuals while shifting the burden towards upper income individuals and large corporations. According to the State Franchise Tax Board, the top one percent of the population saw a 75% growth in income in the eighties, while receiving only a four percent increase in state taxes. The bottom 80% saw no growth in income, while taxes increased dramatically. One reason for the difference is the state's increasing dependence on the sales tax, which disproportionately affects the poor.

Opponents of the measure claim that it would ultimitely hurt California by driving businesses out of state and by forcing corporations to pass along tax increases to consumers. The California Taxpayers Association, a corporate lobbying group that opposes Prop. 167, states that the measure "could only speed up the exodus of jobs from California by making this state more unaffordable for business."

Opponents point to a report by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research that claimed that, if passed, the measure will cost the state over 100,000 jobs by 1994. The report is based on studies that show that any tax increases will cost jobs while decreases in taxes will add jobs.

Lenny Goldberg, Executive Director of the California Tax Reform Association, Prop. 167's sponsor, states that the report is based on oversimplified models and cannot be used to predict Prop 167's effects.

"The economic analysis underlying that (report) is so bad. It makes no economic sense at all." Goldberg argues that the measure will speed economic recovery and will encourage businesses to locate in California by closing loopholes which benefit companies that invest abroad. The measure will also benefit companies who locate their plants here by increasing taxes on companies who sell heavily in California but do not locate here. As to passing increased taxes to consumers, Goldberg states "Closing special interest loopholes will not raise prices any more than opening them has lowered prices."

The legislative analyst is completely ambiguous on the subject of Prop. 167's inpact on the state business climate. His analysis in the ballot pamphlet includes "some businesses may choose to reduce their business activities or their investments in new plant and equipment in California," followed closely by "the measure also could have positive effects on the state's economy...and could encourage both short- and long-term growth." He concludes, "It is not possible to predict how individuals and businesses would react to the changes in this measure." Who do you believe?

Both sides of the initiative have received large donations from political action committees. Corporations are donating thousands of dollars to oppose Proposition 167. As of June 30, AT&T, PG&E, Mobil, Shell, Great Western Financial, Hewlett Packard and IBM had donated at least $10,000 each. Wells Fargo, Texaco, Arco, Chevron, Unocal, State Farm Insurance and Catellus Development Corp. had donated at least $20,000 each.

The measure is being supported by large sums of money from public employee union PACs, including over $200,000 from the California Teachers Association. Prop.167 has also received support from unions and the state Democratic Party Central Comittee.

Opponents have hired the public relations firm Woodward and McDowell to run what could be a multi-million dollar opposition campaign to defeat the measure, and have already aired a number of radio ads. Goldberg states that the opposition has resorted to scare tactics including spreading "just plain lies" which play on consumer and taxpayer fears.

But it will take more than scare tactics to turn back voters who are tired of trickle-down theories. Prop. 167 will bring much needed revenue to the state and will force corporations, not lower and middle income individuals, to increase their share of the burden. As Goldberg states, "Those who made off with the store in the 80s will have to share the pain in the 90s."

Proposition 167 is sponsored by the California Tax Reform Association, a non-profit public interest organization that works for progressive tax reform. The initiative is endorsed by the California Democratic Party, the California Parent\Teacher Association, the California Labor Federation as well as numerous labor, teacher, senior citizen and student organizations.

To volunteer with Prop 167, contact CTRA at (916) 446-4357. Also, to donate $10 to the campaign, call 1-(900)-787-4167.

Statewide Initiatives on the November Ballot.

The Green Party Analysis

The following is the text from the initiative analysis distributed to Green Party members in Alameda County. This analysis represents the informed opinion of one or more members of the Alameda County Campaigns and Candidates Committee but should not be construed as the official position of the Green Party. Copies of the full wording of the proposition can be obtained by writing to the Secretary of State, State of California, 1230 J St., Sacramento, CA 95814, or calling (916) 445-0820.

At our deadline time the Marin group had not finished its analysis, but has not indicated any substantial disagreement with the suggestions below.

Green Party recommendations on statewide initiatives

YES	155)	School Facilities
YES	156)	Rail Transportation Projects
YES	157)	Toll Highways
?	158)	Office of the California Analyst
YES	159)	Auditor General
?	160)	Property Taxation
YES	161)	Terminal Illness
YES	162)	Public Employees Retirement Systems
NO	163)	Taxation of Food Products
?	164)	Term Limits
NO	165)	Welfare Budget Process.
NO	166)	Basic Health Care
YES	167)	State Taxes

Prop. 155 School Facilities

This measure proposes that the state be authorized to issue additional bonds of up to $900 million for school building construction or improvement. Recently, there is an "apparent" necessity to cut much needed state moneys budgeted for local education. At the same time, however, the voters have already passed several propositions this year for basically the same purposes. This places the state into further "no-way-out/round-robin" debt. I recommend supporting this measure, but repealing prop. 13 would make much more sense.

- Jane Kramer

Prop. 156 Rail Transportation Projects

This proposition would provide $1 billion to fund rail transit projects. The money would be used for intercity routes such as L.A. to the Bay Area, commuter routes such as Stockton to Livermore or San Jose to Gilroy, and urban transit such as BART, S.F. MUNI, a Pleasanton to Concord route, and dozens of others. We need more rail transit as an alternative to freeways and automobiles. I recommend supporting this proposition, even though $1 billion would just be a start. Also, we'll probably have to lobby against some of the routes that might encourage suburban development.

- Greg Jan

Prop. 157 Toll Highways

This measure puts time limits on the collection of highway tolls. Its purpose is to reduce the incentive for developers to build private toll roads. It is particularly aimed at a proposed Suisun-Dublin highway that progressives are trying to squish. I recommend endorsement.

- Joan Strasser

Prop. 158 Office of the California Analyst

This proposition would establish the Office of the California Analyst, which would assist the legislature with fiscal and policy making decisions. Analysis of this proposition has not been completed.

- Joan Strasser

Prop. 159 Auditor General

Prop. 140 has reduced the legislature's budget by 38%. This has seriously reduced the budgets of these non-partisan watchdog offices. This bill will return them to their 1990-91 levels of funding by making them line-items in the governor's budget. We need such watchdogs and recommend endorsement.

- Joan Strasser

Prop. 160 Property Taxation

This proposition would extend the current disabled veteran's property tax exemption to include homes of spouses of veterans who died while on active duty. Some on the committee oppose this because it encourages people to join the military and supports the institution of marriage. Others argue that these institutional problems should not be taken out on bereaved spouses.

- Dan Robinson and others

Prop. 161 Terminal Illness

This proposition would permit revocable written directives authorizing physicians to terminate life in a "painless, humane and dignified manner" by mentally competent adults after terminal illness has been diagnosed. This appears to be a carefully crafted bill, maximizing the potential for reducing suffering of the terminally ill, while protecting them from abuse of the law. No doctor or medical facility would be required to participate. I recommend endorsement, as the benefits appear to far outweigh the risks. I recognize that this is a difficult issue, and look forward to thoughtful comments and discussion.

- Joan Strasser

Prop. 162. Public Employees Retirement Systems

This proposed amendment to the state constitution would protect the pension funds of state employees from political interests. It would give the boards of public retirement systems exclusive authority over investment and administration decisions. It would further prevent "political packing" of the boards and require that the board's duty toward its beneficiaries takes precedence over other objectives. Since most political influences are bad (especially the transfer of funds to balance the state budget), I recommend supporting this proposition.

- Ichiro

Prop. 163 Taxation of Food Products

Candy, bottled water and snack foods are to be exempted from the California sales and use taxes on "food products for human consumption." This measure also fails to define "snack food" and thus further confuses an already arbitrary system of taxation.

- Jane Kramer

Prop. 164 Term Limits

This proposition would limit the terms of office for California representatives to six years out of an 11-year interval for U.S. congressional representatives and 12 years out of a 17-year interval for senators. The "interval vacuum" can be filled by the same person by a write-in ballot. The loss of experienced legislators could strengthen the executive branch and the entrenched bureaucracy. The end of the tradition of legislative gerontocracy could, however, help the Greens get into Congress. In all, the question is whether this proposition increases citizen grassroots involvement in issues.

- Jane Kramer

Prop. 165 Welfare Budget Process.

Governor Wilson's initiative is a full scale attack on the poor and an attempt to grab dictatorial powers over the state budget. It would cut the monthly AFDC payment by 10% immediately. In six months, it would drop another 15% if the family contains an "able bodied adult" (which includes a single mother with small children). The initiative also grants the Governor sweeping budgetary powers if a budget is not timely passed including the right to unilaterally cut spending on most budget items. The law will also eliminate County responsibility for assistance payments and will discriminate against recipients moving to California from other states.

Prop. 166 Basic Health Care

This proposition would require employers to purchase private health insurance for all employees working over 17.5 hours/week and their dependents. It would specify treatments that must be covered and would establish commissions for medical policy review and cost containment. The cost to employers would be offset by tax credits. It would not provide for those unemployed, self-employed or working under 17.5 hours/week. The net cost to the state could be several hundred million dollars in lost taxes; this money would be basically redirected to private insurers. The required services would be inadequate and commissions would be too heavily weighted toward physicians. Can we rely on doctors and insurance companies to keep our medical costs affordable? Preliminary recommendation: oppose.

- Juliet Cox

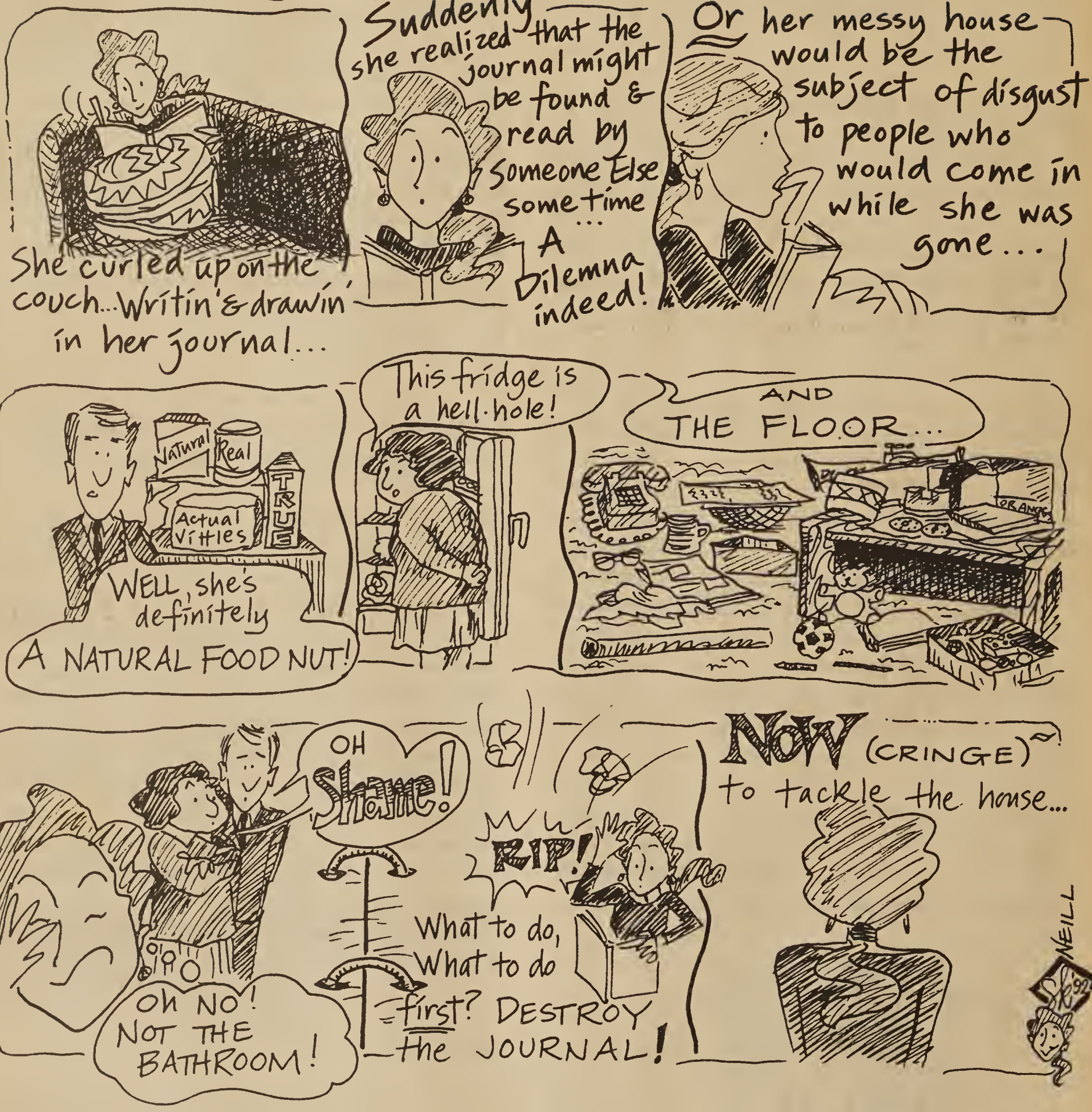
(*ed* - Options *understands that every progressive health care group inthe state is opposing this measure*).

Prop. 167 State Taxes

Proposition 167 will provide tax relief to the ordinary citizen while making the corporations and the wealthy pay more of their fair share. It will: 1) repeal Wilson's regressive "snack tax," 2) ease the sales tax burden on consumers by 0.25%, 3) restore the renter's credit, 4) tax excessive corporate executive compensation, 5) increase the corporate tax rate, 6) establish an oil severance tax, 7) reassess corporate property on a change of majority ownership, 8) restore the Gross Premiums Tax on insurance companies. This initiative will generate needed revenues while avoiding further cuts in needed services by closing several loopholes in the tax law. The law also requires greater accountability by requiring the State Comptroller to improve reporting of state financial information to California taxpayers.

- Sam T.

COUNT to TEN


She curled up on the couch... writin' & drawin' in her journal...
Suddenly she realized that the journal might be found & read by someone else sometime... A Dilemna indeed!
Or her messy house would be the subject of disgust to people who would come in while she was gone...
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TRUE
Actual Vittles
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This fridge is a hell-hole!
AND THE FLOOR...
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OH NO! NOT THE BATHROOM!
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What to do, What to do first? DESTROY the JOURNAL!
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NEILL

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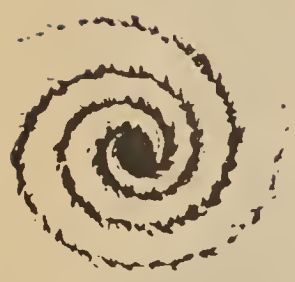

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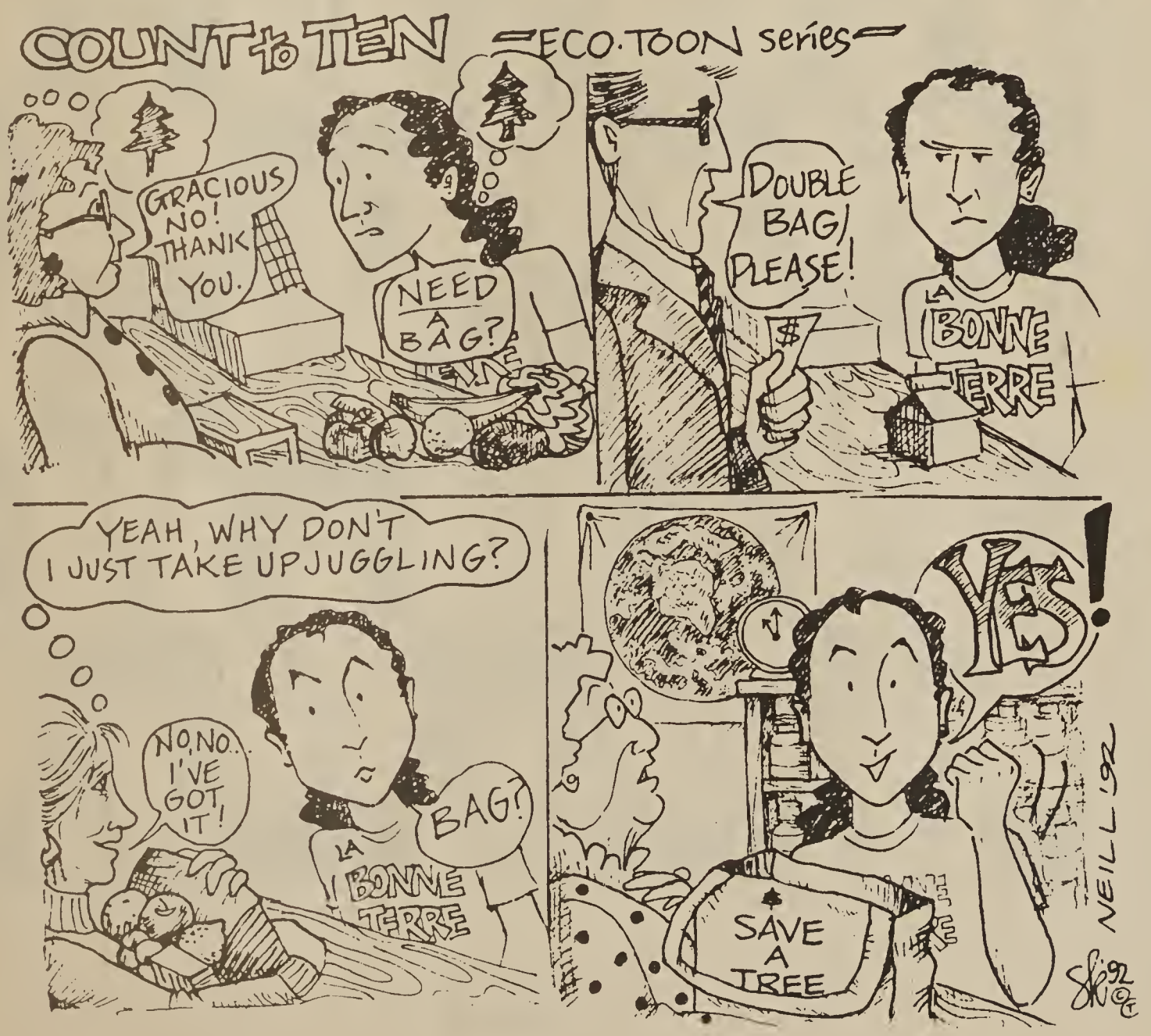

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Contact: Laura Hall

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Contact: Suzanne Bristol 454-0818

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Institute Of Noetic Science
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Contact: Nola Lewis, Willis Harman 331-5650

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Marin Suicide Prevention Center
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Contact: 925-1311

Community Action Marin
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Contact: Gail Theller 457-2522

Community Housing Resource Board
430 Mission Ave, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Nancy Kenyon Or Paul Smith 457-2390

Cross Over Project
Opportunity House, 205 C St, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Pat Dale 456-3569

Ecumenical Association for Housing
2169B E. Francisco Blvd, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Bette Pagett 258-1800

Fair Housing Program
88 Belvedere Suite "A" 1, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Nancy Kenyon 457-5025

Family Service Agency Of Marin
1005 A St. Suite 307, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Robert Thomas 456-3853

Gray Panthers Of Marin
P.O. Box 2874, San Rafael 94912
Contact: Janet Pence 456-9038

Hospice Of Marin
77 Mark St #17, San Rafael 94903
Contact: 927-2273

Human Concern Center of Marin
16 Ritter St., San Rafael 94901
Contact: Susan Brown 457-8182

Innovative Housing
2169E East Francisco Blvd, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Ann Howell 457-4593

La Familia
1480 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael 94901
Contact: Sleikendro Montenegre 457-4260

Legal Aid Society
30 N. San Pedro #245, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Gary James Wood 492-0230

Marin Abused Women's Services
1717 5th Ave, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Pat Kuta 457-2464

Marin Adult Day Health Service
72 Kensington Rd., San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Kay Warren 459-6120

Marin Area Agency On Aging
Rm 257, Civic Center, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Ellen Caulfield 499-7396

Marin Child Abuse Council
828 Mission Ave, San Rafael 94901
Contact: 459-4499

Marin City Multi-Service Center
740 Drake Ave., Marin City 94965
Contact: Tommy Drake 332-7227

Marin Community Clinic
2398 Sir Francis Drake, Fairfax 94930
Contact: 457-7700

Marin Community Food Bank
75 Digital Dr., Novato 94949
Contact: Anne Rogers 883-1302

Marin Concerned Citizens Committee
1024 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Lynn Sinns 456-7805

Marin Employment and Training Consortium
2165 Francisco Blvd #A-2, San Rafael 94901
Contact: 258-4720

Marin Housing
830 B St., San Rafael 94901
Contact: 459-5843

Marin Museum Of The American Indian
2200 Novato Blvd., Novato 94947
Contact: Katherine Volz 897-4064

Mediation Services
Rm 412. Civic Center, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Jody Anne Becker 499-6191

Mental Health Association of Marin
1024 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Dorothy Hughes 456-7693

Spectrum, Center for Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Concern

~~**Ministry Of Light**~~
1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: ~~Jane Spahr 457-1115~~ Lea Brown 4571150

Novato Ecumenical Housing
P.O. Box 428, Novato 94948
Contact: 892-8136

Novato Human Needs
P.O. Drawer R, Novato 94948
Contact: Florrie Torconi 897-4147

Older Adult Services
18 Professional Center Pkwy, San Rafael 94903
Contact: Grace Tomlinson Or Ann Sorgen 499-6808

Prison Law Office
2171 Francisco, San Rafael 94901

Contact: 457-9144

Rainbow Coalition
400 Canal, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Dorothy Vesecky 456-3958

Seva Foundation
8 N.San Pedro Rd, San Rafael 94901
Contact: Mary Kay Sweeney 492-1829

YMCA
1500 Los Gamos, San Rafael 94903
Contact: 492-9622

YWCA
1000 Sir Francis Drake, San Anselmo 94960
Contact: Jaimie Wiatrak 456-0782

PETE WILSON'S NIGHTMARE